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KENT ON SUNDAY

Published by KOS MEDIA LTD Telephone: (01303) 817000 IT'S WHAT SUNDAYS ARE ALL ABOUT No.425 November 14, 2010 Complimentary

INSIDE THIS WEEK'S PAPER

WIN VIP PASSES AND £150 TO SPEND AT ASHFORD DESIGNER OUTLET SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS

MILLIONS SPENT ON STAND-IN DOCTORS

Locum bill soars despite health risk fears

By **STEVE KNIGHT** and **MARIJKE COX**

MILLIONS of pounds spent on locum doctors in Kent could be putting patient safety at risk, health experts have warned.

New figures showing the amount spent on temporary cover at health organisations across the UK revealed costs at two of Kent's NHS trusts have soared over the last three years.

At Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells, spending on locums increased from £3.2 million in 2007/08 to a staggering £9.1m in 2009/10.

For Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust, costs almost doubled from £2.1m three years ago to £4.2m last year.

The increase is believed to be a result of the introduction of the European Working Time Directive, which limits the working week to 48 hours, meaning rotas are harder to fill with permanent staff.

But industry experts have warned of the lack of continuity in care

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO

Hero honoured

AT A time when we remember the fallen and pay tribute to our troops on the frontline, the heroics of one of history's brave soldiers have been marked with an Elizabeth Cross.

Captain Tony King, from Maidstone, who is serving in Germany with the Two Logistics Support Regiment, was presented with the commendation in memory of his uncle Private Simon King, who was killed during active service in Malaya in 1954.

The Elizabeth Cross is a silver medal awarded to the next of kin of soldiers who died on operations.

Capt King, 42, said: "It is a fitting memorial to someone who has given their life for their country."

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Benefits change could empty affluent towns

HOUSING benefit claimants could be forced to move out of wealthier towns on Kent's commuter belt as a result of the Government's cap on handouts, ***writes Marijke Cox***.

A report by the Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH) revealed that in the next decade people relying on local housing allowance may have to look for cheaper accommodation in less affluent towns.

It comes just a fortnight after North Thanet MP Roger Gale raised concerns that coastal areas could be hit with an influx of London dole claimants unable to afford expensive city rents once housing benefit is capped in April.

Industry experts at CIH believe for Kent's wealthier in-land towns it could be the reverse, with claimants moving away.

Ashford and Maidstone were highlighted in the report as places that would be 'off limits' for private rented sector tenants claiming housing benefits in the next 10 years.

Towns on commuter belts were outlined as areas where claimants may be unable to afford to live.

The report added: "If rental inflation is at five per cent, within 20 years almost all rental market areas in the South East will be affected by the caps."

Under the changes, handouts will be capped at £400 a week for a four-bedroom house, £340 for a three-bedroom property, £290 for two bedrooms and £250 for a one-bedroom.

Kent's Tory MPs have welcomed the move.

Laura Sandys (South Thanet) said it was an injustice that people were putting in a hard day's work for a low wage, while others were better off on the dole and claiming housing benefits.

She said: "It has taken a lot of courage to address housing benefit.

"It has not been done early enough, but the coalition can now deal with what has become a ludicrous and highly inflationary system.

"The current situation has fundamentally distorted housing in my area.

"The average wage in Thanet is £17,000 and housing benefits for the unemployed stand at more than £8,000 a year. Most working families cannot compete in that market.

"Our system is broken. Those who want to work know that work does not pay. Those who work get less than those who claim and those who do not work often receive the most."

Healthcare priorities mean staff planning is short term

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO

through using locum doctors.

Katherine Murphy, chief executive of the Patients Association, told KoS it was "outrageous" so much money was being paid to agencies to cover shifts.

"Locum doctors will not know the policy and procedures of that hospital and could be putting patient safety at risk," she said.

"Effective NHS management would not allow this to happen. It needs to review staffing requirements, using expensive locum cover to fill gaps in services will not help the NHS find the £20 billion of savings asked for by 2014."

She added that by planning staff shifts and not relying heavily on locum cover, managers could help the NHS make savings that could be reinvested back into frontline services.

"We want clinical managers within hospitals to take responsibility for managing staff rotas to ensure there are enough doctors available to treat patients effectively and that safety is not compromised," she added.

Maidstone GP and British Medical Association spokesman Dr Paul Hobday said he had no worries about the ability of locums, but was concerned about the short-term nature of their work.

"With locums you lose the continuity of care that patients need," he said.

"It's too easy for locums to think they can pass their work onto somebody else tomorrow."

Dr Hobday said he believed trust managers' priorities were not what they should be.

"They're probably employing more locums because they don't want to take on extra members of staff," he said. "When they think about budgets they're thinking short-term rather than long-term."

Use of cover doctors came under the spotlight two years ago when 70-year-old David Gray, from Cambridgeshire, died when a German locum accidentally administered a fatal dose of painkiller on his first shift in the UK.

It pushed the Labour government to look at out-of-hours care and the way in which medics were selected.

Problem

Health Secretary Andrew Lansley admitted the high use of locums could affect patient care and said it was a problem.

But despite concerns within the industry and from the Government, figures released following a Freedom of Information request by The Royal College of Surgeons (RCS) found locums were still being brought in for cover.

The college asked for figures from 164 trusts in the UK but only received adequate data back from 96, including the two in Kent.

They spent a total of £758m on locum doctors last year compared to £384m three years ago.

RCS president John Black said money was spent on locums to "prop-up" services that were falling apart because of European law.

"It seems ridiculous that at a time of economic crisis, with wide-ranging cuts to services, we are seeing astronomical sums of money being thrown at locum doctors," he said.

"Unless hours for doctors working in 24-hour acute care medicine are relaxed to a sensible level, the pool of good, safe doctors will dry up and we will see more units close."

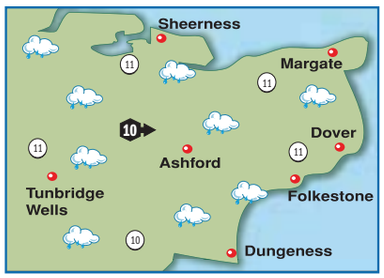
Dr Paul Sigston – medical director for Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust – admitted the increased cost of locums was due to the reduction in doctors' working hours.

He said: "This is a national issue we cannot solve on our own, though we believe the problem will be alleviated in some specialities when we move into our new hospital at Pembury.

"What I can guarantee is that the safety and best interests of our patients are always our top priority, and no patient has been or will be disadvantaged by the increased use of locum doctors in our trust."

Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust was unavailable for comment.

Kent today



TODAY: It will remain unsettled with showers or longer spells of rain, mostly light, although with the risk of a heavier burst. Moderate westerly winds. Max temp 9-12C (48-54F). **TONIGHT:** Clear intervals and scattered showers. Gentle winds. A chillier night. Min temp 3-6C (37-43F).

Around Britain

Aberdeen	showers	7	45	London	rain	11	52
Belfast	showers	7	45	Liverpool	cloudy	9	48
Birmingham	showers	9	48	Manchester	fair	9	48
B'mouth	rain	11	52	Newcastle	showers	7	45
Bristol	showers	11	52	Norwich	rain	10	50
Cardiff	rain	10	50	Oxford	showers	10	50
Cork	showers	7	45	Southsea	rain	12	54
Edinburgh	cloudy	7	45	S'hampton	rain	11	52
Glasgow	cloudy	7	45	Southport	fair	9	48
Isle of Man	fair	9	48	Swansea	rain	10	50
Leeds	fair	7	45	Torquay	rain	11	52

Sun & moon

High Tides

Dover	04.18	5.5	17.11	5.2	05.32	5.4	18.33	5.2
Margate	05.03	4.0	18.03	3.9	06.08	3.9	19.18	3.9
St Mary's	10.25	4.4	23.07	4.2	11.39	4.4	–	–

Week ahead

monday Showers. max 11C min2C

tuesday Sunny spells. max 11C min 4C

wednesday Bright spells. max 11C min 4C

thursday Patchy drizzle. max 11C min 3C

friday Sunny spells. max 10C min 3C

saturday Showers. max 10C min 4C

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Printed by Archant Print.

Preventative services cuts 'likely to cause increase in spending'

A LEADING charity has warned there could be an increase in the number of elderly people moving into care homes if vital home support is reduced.

Bosses from Age Concern say they are worried government spending cuts will force councils to scale down the amount of homecare available, including assistance with everyday tasks such as washing and eating.

It follows warnings from the Local Government Association that an increasing number of local authorities could restrict services to those who have "critical" needs such as dementia.

Maidstone Age Concern chief executive Paul Coles said cuts to homecare would not help deliver savings.

"Any cut in preventative services is likely to cause an increase in spending," he said.

"If beneficial services are cut, this will result in people's health deteriorating, which will then increase costs in other areas.

"From our perspective we're here to help people stay in the home for as long as possible. The idea that services that keep them there could be severely cut doesn't make sense to us.

"It would increase the amount of nursing home care needed and the number of people being put in nursing homes."

Fears over whether eligibility criteria for help at home would be tightened were also raised, but Kent County Council, which must tackle a £340 million shortfall over the next four years, denied there were any plans to do so.

Graham Gibbens, cabinet member for Kent adult social services, however, admitted the authority was under pressure.

"Adult social care is facing a continuing pressure to meet increased need and find ways of meeting people's needs as efficiently and effectively as possible," he said.

"Being responsible with the adult social care budget means looking at everything we do and identifying whether it is a good use of limited public money."

MPs' report shows no light at the end of the travel tunnel

Commuters to pay more for an 'even worse' train service

By **MARIJKE COX**
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OVERCROWDED trains, overpriced fares and an inconsistent high speed service – it's just a typical day for Kent's long-suffering commuters.

But unfortunately for Southeastern passengers the problems look set to get even worse over the next four years, according to a report by MPs on the Public Accounts Committee (PAC).

The study warns that targets set by the Department for Transport for increased places on trains will be missed, despite the rising demand in rail travel and the already unacceptable levels of overcrowding.

Particular mention was made in the report about the Southeastern franchise, with passengers being forced to pay premium fares to support the high speed service when it does not stop at every station – a problem highlighted by rail campaigners and Kent MPs since the new Javelin trains were introduced last year.

Commuters in the county have also had to cope with fare increases of inflation plus three per cent for the past three years, while the rest of the country saw rises of inflation plus just one per cent.

RUSH HOUR: Southeastern are allowed to raise their train fares, but there's little sign of an increase in passenger capacity

The price-setting formula for Kent was due to change when Southeastern's franchise ends in 2012, but this anticipated reprieve was scrapped when ministers voted in October to change pricing across the board to RPI plus three per cent.

It means passengers will continue to see soaring ticket prices but an inadequate, overcrowded service.

Senior Tory backbencher Roger Gale, MP for North Thanet, has campaigned on behalf of passengers and met with transport minister Theresa Villiers just before the PAC report was published.

He called the paper "authoritative".

"If the Public Accounts Committee says something, it's listened to," he said. "In my meeting with the transport minister I made the same points as before – we are paying far too much for a service that is not good.

Cattle

"What are now known as classic services are overcrowded and slow, and the fast train, as far as east Kent is concerned, isn't fast – it only travels at high speed once it reaches Ebbsfleet. People from east Kent don't use it and so they have to travel like cattle on the reduced classic service."

Over the past 10 years rail passenger numbers have increased by 40 per cent and this is expected to double in the next few decades. But with missed seat targets, it could mean more cramped journeys to and from the capital.

In the PAC report, MPs said the problem was the lack of incentive for the industry to supply extra capacity.

Train operators are meant to use "reasonable endeavours" to give peak passengers a reasonable expectation of a seat within 20 minutes of boarding. There is no legal requirement, however, for rail companies to expand fleets to achieve this.

A Southeastern spokesman said train purchasing was managed by the Department for Transport.

They added: "The December 2009 timetable, with the introduction of high speed services, saw an extra 200 services every day or the equivalent of a five per cent increase in capacity. This increase, as a result of high speed, meant stations such as Tunbridge Wells saw an extra four trains at peak, Tonbridge five and Sevenoaks eight."

But despite claims west Kent is being served well, commuters in other parts of the county remain frustrated.

A Downing Street petition was launched by Herne resident John Nicholson earlier this year demanding a review of train services, and was signed by hundreds of commuters. But they say nothing has changed and industry experts fear things are on a downward spiral.

Anthony Smith, chief executive of independent watchdog Passenger Focus, said: "We need substantial long-term investment as soon as possible to provide longer and more frequent trains."

Roof blown off

STRONG winds ripped part of a lorry's roof off before hurling it through the windscreen of a vehicle travelling in the opposite direction.

Traffic came to a standstill following the incident, which took place near the Whitfield roundabout in Dover, at about 11.45am on Thursday.

The driver of the second lorry is thought to have suffered only minor injuries.

Paedophile book

SEX abuse therapists in Kent have blasted Amazon for agreeing to sell a 'code of conduct' book for paedophiles.

The Gravesend-based Family Matters organisation says the publication – entitled A Paedophile's Guide to Love and Pleasure – encourages the abuse of children.

Operations director Malcolm Gilbert said: "The effect this will have on the thousands of victims of sexual abuse will be very profound."

A WOMAN leapt to her death from a tower block after returning from her cousin's hen weekend in Ibiza, an inquest heard.

Zoe Alder, 30, originally from West Malling, told bride-to-be Victoria Mann she thought she was "going mad" during the flight home last February.

The next day her body was discovered at the foot of a 10-storey building in south-east London, with a suicide note in her handbag.

A verdict of suicide was recorded.

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'Pointless' changes attacked by unions

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
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UNION leaders have hit out at Government plans to publish teachers' salaries, qualifications and sickness rates in an attempt to improve classroom standards.

The Department for Education revealed this week that schools will be forced to publish more information than ever before so parents can make better-informed judgements about where to send their children.

Individual teachers will not be named, but the unions argue that in some small schools it may be easy to identify which teacher is which.

"I can't see the point of all this; it's just headline-grabbing," said John Walder, secretary of the Kent division of the National Union of Teachers (NUT).

"It's been a feature of politics since the late Thatcher era that the Government should always be seen to be doing things, even when it's not needed. That's led to a massive avalanche of new measures that have been bedevilling schools ever since.

"Parents want to see that their child's school is successful, but the fact is what they're really interested in is whether or not their child is happy.

"Regimes where teachers are put under the cosh make for unhappy teachers and unhappy kids. When one side of the equation is put under that sort of pressure, the other side will feel it too."

BALANCE: If teachers feel under pressure then this can end up reflected in our children

The proposals form part of the DfE business plan, which also spells out coalition plans to reform the central contract dictating teachers' pay and conditions. Other statistics to be published include the amount of money spent per child and how many achieve new-style measures charting progress in basic subjects at ages five and 11.

"We do not see how publishing swathes of statistics on how many teachers caught the flu, how many A-levels staff have and what they are paid will reduce bureaucracy," said Emma Sivyer, South East regional officer for the education professionals' union Voice. "This is information overload. What is the point? Do the public really want to know?

"We fear the Government wants to bring to an end the national system for pay and conditions – a system that has worked well in ensuring fairness and transparency without compromising individuals' details."

Other measures spelled out in the business plan include a new 'readiness to progress' assessment for children to ensure they are ready to start primary and secondary school, and the introduction of a new National Curriculum by September 2013.

The 'nappy curriculum' setting out targets children must hit before their fifth birthday will also be less bureaucratic.

'Time to change justice system'

A CRITICAL report of the criminal justice system has been welcomed by Kent Police Authority chairwoman Ann Barnes.

The study by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary concluded that the system is "fragmented, bureaucratic and wasteful" and that public confidence in it is low.

Mrs Barnes said: "I am well placed to talk about the police, the courts and the criminal justice system. Changes are desperately needed as the process is painfully slow and involves far too many agencies."

Equality is vital

BUSINESS leaders are calling for membership equality when the new Kent, Essex and East Sussex Local Enterprise Partnership is officially formed.

They are calling for the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB), Chambers of Commerce and the Institute of Directors to have the same number of seats on the board as the politicians.

Kent and Medway FSB chairman Roger House said: "It is important the county councils engage rapidly with the recognised business organisations to make sure the board is truly representative."

The interim board of the LEP is due to be formed by early December.

A FORMER Kent college tutor has been awarded an OBE for services to further and higher education.

Miles Dibsdall, who now works in Scotland, spent three years as deputy principal of West Kent College and also served with several others in the county.

The 46-year-old, who has spent 24 years in education, received his accolade at a special Buckingham Palace ceremony last week.

Driving county show to a brighter future

KENT County Show's new executive manager has vowed to address the traffic problems which have blighted the event in recent years, ***writes Marijke Cox***.

Roger Moore, who recently took up the post with the Kent Agricultural Society, said he would prioritise traffic management so visitors wouldn't be left queuing for hours in their vehicles when trying to leave the showground in Detling.

The 53-year-old Ashford resident spoke to KoS as plans were unveiled for a £1 million refurbishment of the Cornwallis Building, pictured, an event and conference centre located at the showground.

The 34-year-old earth-floored barn is being turned into a modern conference, entertainment and exhibition centre for use all year round. It will be the biggest in the county, accommodating up to 10,000 people.

Mr Moore said: "Not only will it be the largest in Kent, but it will be located in the middle of 200 acres of land in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

"Work started on the build about a month ago and it will be completed in March ready for the next County Show."

Mr Moore, who has worked in the agricultural and horticultural industry for 25 years, said he was excited about his new role as executive manager of the event.

"There are a number of things I want to do to enhance the show," he said.

"It is important that we continue to emphasise the agricultural aspect. We also need to let more people know what the event is about and when it's on.

"There's a big assumption that everyone knows about the County Show. When I went I was amazed at how much was going on there and I want people to know about this."

Mr Moore also stressed the need to tackle the problem with traffic.

"We don't want this to put people off coming so I'm going to be spending a lot of time on traffic management."

"My husband and I separated last year. I was at a complete loss to know what to do. Whitehead Monckton were very caring and were able to help me arrange everything without us going to court. They also sorted out the mortgage and made sure I had a new will."

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THE INTERVIEW

BY TOM BETTS

UK holds a special place in Herb's heart and soul

WITH a voice as warm and velvety as chocolate, Herb Murrell still has the pipes to melt a million hearts.

His legendary soul group The Stylistics sell out theatres on a regular basis, tour in the UK almost every year and will appear in Tunbridge Wells on Saturday, November 20.

"I love our UK fans, they are some of the best in the world and I have so much love in my heart for them," said Herb.

After thousands of shows since The Stylistics' 1970s heyday, the Philadelphia native realises his voice has changed over the years, but he intends to sing for as long as he can.

"My voice has matured, of course, and there are things I perhaps can't do like I did in my twenties, but you learn tricks and ways around that and I think it's held up pretty well in all," he said.

The Stylistics stalwart – who many fans regard as the 'face' of the band – has been all over the world during the course of the last 40-odd years, but nowhere has a place in his affections like the UK.

Of the group's enduring popularity on this side of the pond, he said: "I think our songs really connect with British audiences and it's a joy to sing here."

The Stylistics hail from Philadelphia, one of the great American cities for soul and R'n'B. From their own music to later acts such as Boyz II Men, the east coast metropolis has been at the forefront of the American musical scene for decades.

Herb said: "Philly is a melting pot of different cultures and so many artistic people from different backgrounds with unique talents. So many people can express themselves through music and that definitely has had a huge influence on us as a group of people making our own music. It's a very soulful place.

FOUR-PART HARMONY: Herb Murrell, third from left, with his fellow Stylistics members

"Looking back over the years, some fantastic music with a real Philadelphia sound has come from the city. I go back as often as I can to relax and see my family. We're all still based out of Philadelphia. We're fortunate to tour and travel so much, but it's always great to go back home."

Away from his life in music – his day job of touring the countries where The Stylistics' following remains strong – Herb said he still finds it difficult to think of much else.

"Even when I'm not performing I listen to a lot of music, because that's my passion.

"Some of my favourite artists include the likes of Babyface and Michael McDonald, but I listen to lots of new music, too.

"The internet makes it possible for anyone who is musically inclined to put their own stuff out there. I definitely think that's a good thing, even if it's harder to keep up with it all nowadays."

The Stylistiscs' songs continue to live on, not just through the band's own performances and touring but because much of their material has been sampled by stars such as Mary J Blige, Zero 7 and Jay-Z.

"We find that very flattering," said Herb. "It shows new creativity and it's great to hear new artists doing new things with our music, especially if they bring a new niche to it. It helps the music to live on."

Herb was touring in the UK when Barack Obama – the first black President of the United States – was elected in 2008, but distance could not detract from the occasion.

He said: "That was an emotional night. A real tear-in-the-eye moment. It was a long time coming and I couldn't imagine it happening when I was younger, not in my lifetime anyway.

"But you must not let a person's colour detract from the man. You must not get away from the qualification of the man himself."

Herb saved the last word, however, for his fans. He said: "I want to thank them for supporting us for so long and being amazing people. God bless you all."

• ***The Stylistics play the Assembly Hall Theatre Tunbridge Wells on Saturday, November 20, at 7.30pm. Tickets priced £21 are available on 01892 530613 or at www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk.***

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Teens are Down with Christ in their hoodies

By **MARIJKE COX**
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A BUDDING entrepreneur has been nominated for a Radio 1 Teen Award for his work in tackling the stereotype of teenagers as knife-wielding hoodies.

Fidel Frimpong was put forward in recognition of his Christian clothing range Down with Christ, which features inspirational messages emblazoned across street-wear that also includes T-shirts and hats.

The 17-year-old, from Orpington, said using clothes associated with teen crime would only make his message stronger.

"The main thing was to show the older generations that just because we're wearing these kinds of clothes it doesn't mean we're bad," he said. "What the minority does affects the majority, so the small number causing trouble gives us all a bad name.

"I think what I have done has definitely made a positive change though and shown other generations we're not all troublemakers. It was using a hoodie in a good way rather than a bad way."

Fidel was nominated for the Teen Entrepreneur Award in the first ever BBC Radio 1 Teen Awards, supported by the Government, which are being held this weekend (Sunday) to celebrate the achievements of British teenagers.

Nominees will be presented with glass statues at the Hammersmith Apollo, with performances from stars including Katy Perry, JLS and Professor Green.

The show will be broadcast on Radio 1 and BBC Three at a later date.

Fidel, who admitted he was surprised at being nominated, said he first came up with the idea of sending people inspirational messages when using social networking site Bebo.

But it wasn't until March this year that the A-level student decided to take it further, launching Down with Christ after securing a part-time job and with some financial assistance from his parents.

Slogans on the clothes include Jesus is My Homeboy, I'm Down 4 Christ and Run Demon Flee in the style of the Run DMC T-shirts.

Fidel said: "It was difficult starting up. At first I didn't know how to go about it.

"But I got support from my parents and my older cousin and they helped me.

"I just went for it. I had the idea and I wanted it to work.

"The main thing I wanted to do was show teenagers in a good light and show people that we're not all bad. I've had positive feedback and I think it's working."

Fidel said he was nervous but excited about the teen awards.

"I didn't expect to be nominated. If I win it will definitely convey a very positive message to people."

Go to www.downwithchrist.bigcartel.com to see the full range, or for more about the company go to www.downwithchrist.co.uk.

COOL FOR KIDS: Fidel Frimpong in one of his hoodies

Big Weekend Out

AN ANNUAL event offering free tickets to attractions across the county will be extended to two days next year.

Kent's Big Weekend Out – previously Kent's Big Day Out – will be held on the weekend of March 26-27 with more than 100 venues expected to participate.

Visit Kent chief executive Sandra Matthews-Marsh said: "This is such a popular event showcasing our tourism businesses to local people that we have decided to spread it over two days to enable more attractions to take part and more Kent residents to visit."

Tourism, leisure and hospitality businesses should visit www.visitkentbusiness.co.uk to find out more about taking part.

England mascots

YOUNG football fanatics from Kent will lead England onto the Wembley turf before their match against France on Wednesday.

Ben Wells, eight, from Sittingbourne, and Karis Stevens, nine, from Bexleyheath, won a competition run by the FA's community partner McDonald's.

The friendly clash with England's cross-Channel neighbours presents a chance for the Three Lions to bounce back after their disappointing 0-0 European Championship qualifying draw with Montenegro. Kick-off is at 8pm.

NETWORK Rail has installed more than 16,000 metres of heating strips in Kent to improve reliability of train services during harsh winter weather conditions.

The strips prevent ice forming on the conductor rail, which is one of the biggest causes of disruption in the county.

By the end of the year, heating elements will have been installed at 42 key locations across the Kent route.

Advertisement feature

Down with Damp

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By KATIE HOLDEN

DAMP is a creeping menace that affects thousands of homes across Kent.

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On behalf of past and present generations who have fought for our freedom:

Let's make this Poppy Appeal a record-breaker

By **MARIJKE COX**
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

THE nation will come together this weekend to honour the fallen of past wars and pay tribute to soldiers on the frontline today.

Veterans, families and young people will attend Remembrance services across Kent on Sunday to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country, and the soldiers who continue to put their lives at risk every day in Afghanistan.

Organisers behind the 2010 Poppy Appeal believe money raised will beat previous records for an eighth year running, with the national target set at £36 million.

Last year, £34m was raised, with £1.2m of that being collected in Kent.

Jane Taylor, the Royal British Legion's community fund-raiser for east Kent, said the charity hopes to see £1.4m in donations this year.

"It's extremely important that people get involved in the Poppy Appeal and Remembrance," she said. "Everybody has seen the images of war and knows the impact it has on soldiers and their families.

"This appeal gives them peace of mind that there is money there if they need it, but this isn't just about the poppy campaign, we work throughout the year to raise money."

The legion, which marks its 90th anniversary this year, spends £200,000 a day on providing welfare and support for the Armed Forces and the charity's campaigns have resulted in more than £12m in increased compensation paid to seriously injured service personnel.

This year, more than £78m will be spent providing assistance to over 160,000 serving and ex-service personnel and their families, with £1.8m on combat stress to provide treatment for mental health outreach programmes.

Some £24m has been committed to the Personnel Recovery Centres, including £12m to the Royal British Legion's Battle Back Challenge Centre, a facility being built to enhance the recovery of wounded or sick service personnel.

Mrs Taylor said although the Poppy Appeal is honouring those who fought in the two world wars and other conflicts, the theme of the campaign is supporting the Afghan and Iraq generation.

"A lot of people think of the appeal as only being about veterans and we're trying to change that perception," she said. "The appeal is for everybody who has served, not just the two world wars. People always think about the old soldiers with their medals, but it also about the Armed Forces today."

LEST WE FORGET: Old soldiers and the younger generation support the Poppy Appeal

Veteran Alfred George, who lives in Ashford, agreed the appeal should be for everyone who has been wounded or affected by war. The 90-year-old was one of a group of veterans to attend the official Poppy Appeal launch at County Hall at the end of October alongside young representatives from active serving units.

Attacked

"The younger generation are interested in the appeal," he said. "I did a talk at an Ashford school and the children were wrapped up in what I was saying."

Mr George was just 20 when he was called upon to fight in World War Two.

"I got called up the day after I joined the Territorial Army. War was imminent," he said. "I was working in Essex at a chemical firm but was told to report to barracks."

Mr George began his active service soon after, moving through France and Belgium with his comrades while being attacked from the air by the Luftwaffe.

In one shocking incident they came under fire while trying to make a break through enemy lines.

"All the refugees moving back to France were machine-gunned and bombed – it was a terrible sight," he said.

"There was nothing we could do for them. We'd jumped off our vehicles, so we got back on and carried on moving."

Mr George found his way to the beaches at Dunkirk: "We were on the dunes and then we made our way to the jetty. Luckily we were there between air-raids, but we could see many dead bodies. We were in a queue and when I got to the end I looked over and could see a little paddle steamer – my guardian angel. It was the Medway Queen and she got me back from Dunkirk."

Mr George later joined the Medway Queen Preservation Society to help ensure the future of the little ship.

"A few people phoned me up and one woman gave a donation for the Medway Queen. It is important for people to do this with the Poppy Appeal."

To donate go to www.poppy.org.uk.

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

Comfort and closure with Jervis tribute

TRIBUTES have been paid by the families of sailors killed when their ship came under surprise attack during World War Two.

About 180 people gathered at Chatham Historic Dockyard to remember the 186 men who died on board HMS Jervis Bay on November 5, 1940.

The service was led by the Rt Rev Dr Stephen Venner, Bishop to HM Forces, and attended by relatives of those who perished.

Iris Bagnall, the sister of the ship's carpenter, Arthur William Desborough, said it was heartwarming to know those lost were still being remembered.

"Our day at the Dockyard was beautifully done and a perfect tribute to those who lost their lives 70 years ago," she said.

"I feel the day provided comfort for myself and my family and, at last, it's given us closure."

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Picture: ALFRED GAY

GREENERY: Elham received funding from KCC in 2007, to help reduce its carbon footprint

Village is sustaining its green principles

ECO-friendly villagers are putting their urban neighbours to shame with green schemes that are successfully reducing their carbon footprints.

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

Three years ago a number of Kent's rural community leaders took up the challenge to help tackle climate change, with some now reporting impressive results thanks to the energy-saving efforts of their residents.

Villagers in Elham, near Folkestone, are among those to have successfully reduced their carbon footprints after being persuaded to take measures to improve their energy efficiency such as using low-voltage light bulbs and providing better insulation for their homes.

The Elham Environmental Group (EEG), which was formed in 2007, has also planted a large number of trees for the community and produced sustainable shopping bags for local traders.

Hostility

Residents who sign up to the Fuel Club can also enjoy cheaper bills thanks to pooled deliveries of heating oil that limit the number of times lorries have to visit the village.

"There are lots of other things we would like to do, but we are limited because we are only a small team of volunteers," said chairman the Reverend Canon David Ratcliff.

"There are also some people who think climate change isn't happening or that it isn't caused by the use of fossil fuels, so we're always having to convince people why we're doing this. There's no hostility from anyone towards what we're trying to achieve, but some are doing more to help than others."

Elham was one of four villages which received Kent County Council funding to pioneer the county's efforts to cut carbon emissions in 2007, the others being Eastchurch on the Isle of Sheppey, Hadlow near Tonbridge, and St Margaret-at-Cliffe near Dover.

Mr Ratcliff was a guest speaker at Protect Kent Canterbury's annual meeting on Monday, when he revealed the EEG's energy-saving efforts have led to a seven per cent reduction in Elham's carbon emissions over the past 12 months.

But the retired clergyman admitted some of the organisation's methods may prove more difficult to implement in Kent's urban areas.

"We think our way of working is good for smallish communities, but it may not be suitable for everyone," he said.

"There's so much going on in large towns and cities that it can be very difficult to get people to respond to what you're doing. But I think anything we can do to help people become more aware of the environmental issues we are currently facing is a good thing.

"I'm in my 70s and retired so it's not going to affect me much, but it's about the children and grandchildren and the future they are going to grow into. The more effort we put into securing our energy and protecting the environment today, the better it will be for them tomorrow."

Visit www.elhamenvironment.co.uk for more information.

Meanwhile, South Thanet Tory MP Laura Sandys is calling for the Government to support the concept of Thanet becoming a centre for green technology, jobs and skills.

She said: "Our world-renowned offshore wind farms should serve as anchors for future external investment.

"Opportunities such as solar, biomass, marine energy, home insulation and micro-generation provide numerous windows for development and could deliver much-needed employment opportunities for local people."

Medway finalises bid for city status

TOWN hall chiefs have taken another step forward in their campaign to secure city status for Medway.

In a meeting on Tuesday, council leader Rodney Chambers and the cabinet finalised plans for the bid that would see the five towns united as the City of Medway.

Despite unsuccessful bids in 2000 and 2002, council chiefs are hoping it will be third time lucky for the area and are now seeking cross-party support to achieve their goal.

A report to the council said: "A bid for 'city status' would certainly raise the area's profile, enhancing its reputation and ensuring it is a place that is recognised.

"City status would be a fitting accolade to crown Medway's Year of Celebrations in 2012. There is very little downside to making a bid, and much to be gained."

New cancer drug big step forward

PFIZER has announced a breakthrough in treating a lethal form of cancer.

The news pushed shares of the world's largest pharmaceutical company, which has its European research centre in Sandwich, up to about £12.

Pfizer's cancer drug crizotinib shrinks lung tumours that have a specific genetic mutation fusing two genes.

In the trial, 82 patients had the genetic mutation to be targeted by the drug. The tumours of 46 patients who took the oral drug shrank by more than 30 per cent, while one patient's tumour disappeared entirely.

Crizotinib stopped tumour growth in 27 of the patients, or 33 per cent.

The study authors estimated that for 72 per cent of patients, the disease would not worsen for six months.

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Fireman's Wedding graves restored

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

VICTIMS of a public fire display that went tragically wrong have been remembered once more after long-overdue repairs to their final resting places.

Nine adults and six children burned to death during the Gillingham Park stunt in July, 1929, when a blaze started by the town's firefighters raged out of control and tore through the makeshift house they were supposed to be rescued from.

Canadian dental hygienist Lori Oschefski – a relative of one of those who perished – has been campaigning for the graves of the victims to be restored and Medway Council has now acceded to her request.

However, she is still pressing the authority to build a permanent memorial on the site of the tragedy.

JUSTICE: Lori Oschefski has a family link to Gillingham Park victim Eric Cheeseman

"The main reason I petitioned for change was the sheer sense of injustice that these people who died in such tragic circumstances were becoming unrecognised and forgotten," said the 50-year-old Ontario native.

"The decay of the graves was symbolic of the decay of the memory of this event in the community. Very few people knew anything at the start of my research. While the repair of the graves is important, what is more important is that this tragedy is remembered as part of Medway's history."

The Fireman's Wedding display was a popular annual attraction at Gillingham Park, and would culminate every year with the fire brigade 'rescuing' volunteers from a three-storey structure cobbled together with wooden beams and a tarpaulin.

It was rigged to catch fire but on the day of the tragedy the flammable liquids were triggered too early and spectators were confronted with the horror of many of the children and adults burning or jumping to their deaths.

One of those who perished in the blaze was 12-year-old Navy cadet Eric Cheeseman, whom Mrs Oschefski later discovered was the nephew of her grandfather, William Cheeseman. Repairs carried out on the graves included the removal of chippings in the stonework, the replacing of slabs, re-setting of kerbs and corner posts, and levelling of the groundwork.

AFTER THE FIRE: Scene of tragedy

The stonework was also professionally cleaned and polished. However, Mrs Oschefski said there was still work to be done.

"It is vital to note that six of the graves were beyond repair and that these people are not recognised as even being in the cemetery," she said. "They rest in unmarked graves. We need a memorial that recognises and honours the memory of all 15 victims of this tragedy."

Mrs Oschefski also thanked Archant KOS Media for publicising her campaign, which she says was crucial to its success.

She said: "This interest and help has been invaluable with having this story told and the graves repaired, not to mention cementing this as a part of local history. Well done KoS."

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

Ukip party discipline call as Farage returns to the helm

NIGEL Farage has promised to clamp down on dissenters in the ranks as he takes charge of the UK Independence Party for the second time.

The 46-year-old Sevenoaks resident was re-elected as leader last week and told KoS one of his main aims is to improve Ukip's image by taking a harder line against members who publicly criticise the party.

He said the lack of discipline was hurting Ukip's chances of establishing itself as a mainstream party and taking advantage of the public's "increasing disenchantment" with the Conservatives, Liberal Democrats and Labour.

"We've been hugely successful in the European elections but not broken through properly in domestic politics," said Mr Farage.

"I want to stop the trend of Ukip members going on websites to slag off their own party because we need unity and that sort of thing doesn't help. We have policies that an increasing number of voters agree with but sometimes our image has let us down a bit."

Bromley-born Mr Farage was one of the founding members of Ukip in 1993, and led the party between 2006 and September, last year. When he resigned he told members it was because he was finding it too difficult to manage the party at the same time as he was serving as an MEP for the South East. He also wanted to concentrate on his ultimately unsuccessful attempt to oust Speaker John Bercow from Parliament in May's General Election. However, Mr Farage decided to return to the hotseat after the unexpected resignation of his successor Lord Pearson after just 10 months as leader.

"This time I won't be involved with the day-to-day running of the party," he said.

And referring to the light aircraft crash that almost claimed his life on polling day, Mr Farage said: "There will be no more publicity stunts like that, I can assure you."

Ukip holds 12 seats in the European Parliament and two in the House of Lords, and is represented by about 75 district, town and parish councillors throughout the UK.

However, despite being the fourth largest party in terms of the popular vote, it does not have any MPs in the House of Commons.

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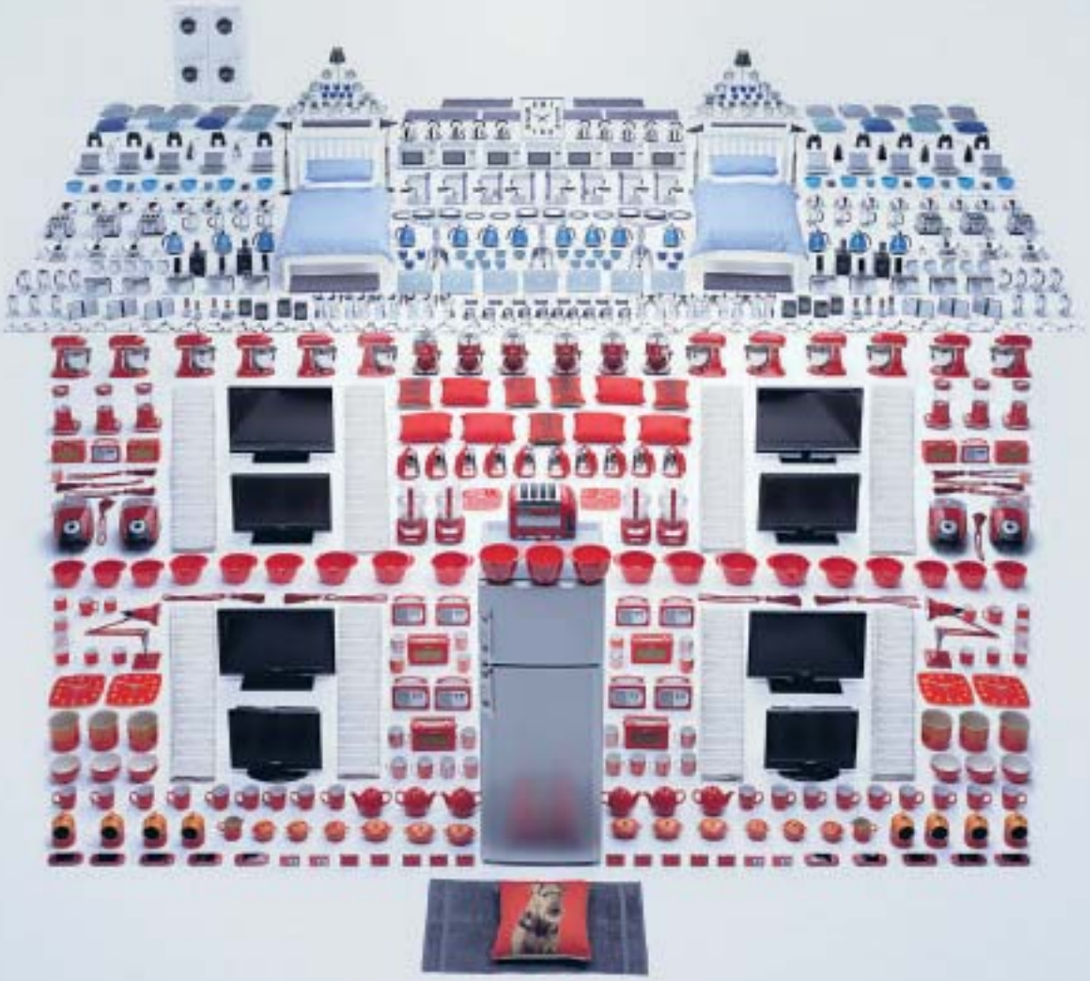

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John Lewis at home

Exotic opportunity

THE RSPCA is looking for good homes for some exotic visitors to the county.

Smurf (right) the ring-necked parakeet strayed into Kent and "would benefit from a specialist owner who has the knowledge to give him the help that he really needs," said Christine Dooley, the manager of the RSPCA's centre in Leybourne.

The centre is looking for a caring home for Zebra, a zebra finch from Australia, and African native Lilac the love bird.

If you can offer a home to any of these birds, call 0300 123 0751.

A new role for MP

SITTINGBOURNE and Sheppey Tory MP Gordon Henderson has been appointed to a Parliamentary committee which scrutinises proposed laws before they are approved by the Government.

The Regulatory Policy Committee provides independent scrutiny of legislation and advises ministers on whether there is sufficient evidence and analysis to support a new regulation, before they decide in favour of moving ahead with it or not.

Army's beat patrol

SOLDIERS from Maidstone's 36 Engineer Regiment are joining police officers on the beat to tackle public disorder.

The Army's Provost Staff, who are responsible for discipline in the regiment, will help deal with soldiers who are out on the town celebrating a return from military operations.

Chief Insp Robbie Graham said: "By strengthening our partner links we hope this will combat potential incidents of public order in the town centre."

Obama must heed the 'wake-up call' of mid-term defeat

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

A BATTERING in the mid-term elections should serve as a wake-up call to President Obama, says an American Democrat living in Kent.

Sandi Carney, 60, from Sevenoaks, is a member of the Democrats Abroad group of expats which has members throughout the county and across the rest of the UK.

And while she gives the President a seven-out-of-10 rating for his performance so far, she admits her party's leader has some work to do over the next two years if he is to secure a second term in office.

Her comments follow a drubbing for Obama's Democractic Party in the mid-term elections, which saw the Republicans regain control of the House of Representatives as well as a number of seats in the Senate.

"This has been his wake-up call and if things don't improve then he may well find himself in trouble," said Mrs Carney.

"The unemployment rate over there is about 10 per cent at the moment and that's what most Americans are concerned about.

"People obviously want to work so that's the main thing going against him.

"But then who will the Republicans put against him in two years' time? Some people are saying Sarah Palin, but I don't think she's a viable option really. It would be like David Cameron running against Arthur Scargill, who is extremely popular among some, but would not win the support of the everyday voter."

Mrs Carney, originally from Hawaii, went to university with President Obama's late mother Ann Soetoro. She was one of millions of Americans who trumpeted Obama's rise to the top of politics in November, 2008 – but does she think he has lived up to the hype?

"I think he has to a certain extent," she said. "He had only served one term as a senator before he was elected, unlike George W Bush who was already a Washington insider and knew what he was getting himself in for.

Responsibility

"I think Obama was a bit stunned when he got into the nitty-gritty, back-stabbing politics of the White House.

"But I wasn't really too disappointed (with the results) because the mid-terms tend to attract older people and more conservative voters, rather than the younger and more liberal voters who normally back Obama."

Obama's term in office has so far been hit by a string of setbacks, most of which were caused or connected to the global economic crisis.

However, he was also roundly criticised for what the American public perceived as a lack of involvement following last April's Gulf of Mexico oil spill disaster.

President Obama's criticism of BP also threatened to sour relations on this side of the Atlantic when he referred to the company by its former name of British Petroleum, which some saw as an attempt to shift responsibility for the incident to the UK government.

And the firm's current chief executive Bob Dudley – who replaced the much-maligned Sevenoaks resident Tony Hayward – revealed in a BBC Two special screened on Tuesday how there was a genuine fear at the time that BP would go under due to a lack of support from American banks.

Mrs Carney said: "I think Obama could have done better. He should have been down on the coast more instead of pontificating in Washington.

"As for referring to BP as British Petroleum, I'm afraid that's just politics at its worse."

Picture: PETE SOUZA

UNDER FIRE: President Obama hit in votes

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Visit to GP could do more harm than good if you've got a cold

AS THE cold weather moves in for winter, health chiefs are warning that antibiotics are useless at battling coughs, colds and flu.

Off-the-shelf treatments from supermarkets are much better at dealing with one of the most common health complaints of this time of year.

But time is often the best healer, with ear infections taking around four days on average to clear up; coughs taking a rotten three weeks; sore throats a week; and the common cold lasting for around a fortnight.

Doctors say colds and flu are caused by viruses, not bacteria, which means using antibiotics when you have a virus may do more harm than good. It won't cure the infection, stop others from catching it, or make patients feel better. In fact, it could cause unnecessary side effects.

Last year more than half a million prescriptions for antibiotics were written for patients in east Kent and antibiotic resistance is one of the world's most pressing public health problems.

East Kent GP Dr Simon Dunn said: "We want to ensure the best care is the right care for patients. If you've got flu and cold symptoms talk to your pharmacist first and get some over-the-counter medicines before making an appointment to see your GP.

"However, if your symptoms get worse you may need to see your GP.

"For peace of mind, many GPs will now offer you a delayed prescription for antibiotics if it is not clear whether the symptoms will go away on their own.

"The difference to a normal prescription is that you should wait a few days before collecting your medicine, try some self care and if you are feeling better you should not collect it at all.

"Antibiotics are really the last resort. They are a key drug in the fight against bacterial infections, but overuse will reduce their effectiveness and are less likely to work when patients need them."

Parents are accused of seeking financial gain from playground spats

THERE was once a time when a father would congratulate his son for standing up for himself and taking part in a playground scrap, ***writes Steve Knight***.

But in a month when Kent County Council revealed it had paid £2,595 in compensation to the parents of one young fighter, it would seem those days are now well and truly over.

The payout was one of five made by local authorities in the UK last year, worth a total of £15,000 to the mums and dads who felt their children's schools were to blame for them being hurt in break time brawls.

Frank Furedi – professor of sociology at the University of Kent – said the claims were indicative of the wider problem of overprotective parents, adding it was "a selfish way of seeking financial gain".

"Unfortunately we find it difficult as a society to live with misfortune," he said. "We're tempted to point the finger of blame every time something goes wrong, and demanding compensation is the next step.

"If you're a parent then you know your children will get into accidents no matter what you do. They don't always end in tragedy and often their children learn from the experience and grow stronger as a result, and we have to learn to live with that.

"I think it's becoming a bit of a problem for schools because they're finding it more and more difficult to accommodate the physical and risk-taking activities children need to mature."

Due to confidentiality laws KCC was unable to provide any details on the compensation case, including what injuries the child involved sustained.

Investigated

However, there have been recent episodes in Kent that demonstrate how fights involving schoolchildren are no longer the seemingly fair contests they perhaps once were.

For example, last year two young thugs from the Howard School in Rainham were placed in youth custody following a sickening attack on a pupil from a rival school.

Jordan Akehurst and Dylan Richards, then aged 14 and 15 respectively, beat Jack Blanchard, then 13, into a coma after goading him into taking part in a scrap at a nearby park. The brutal onslaught was videoed by one of at least 12 onlookers who did nothing to intervene.

Fiona Fitzgerald – a personal injury lawyer with Colemans CTTS – said that a school cannot be held liable for playground attacks as long as it can prove it has adequate systems in place.

She added: "There can be problems if it doesn't ensure pupils are safe from a child with a violent history, or if a group of children is left unattended for an extended period."

A KCC spokesman said: "Schools take the health and safety of their pupils extremely seriously and challenge any unacceptable behaviour. Such compensation payouts are rare and claims are rigorously investigated."

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POINT OF ORDER: Dara Farrell during his appearance in the House of Commons

'We've been screwed over by fees and cuts'

YOUNG people are being "screwed over" by massive tuition fee increases and Government spending cuts, claims the chairman of Kent Youth County Council, ***writes Steve Knight***.

Seventeen-year-old Dara Farrell, who also represents the county in the UK Youth Parliament, says teenagers like him will be hit hard by the announcements made since last month's comprehensive spending review (CSR).

Most notable was last week's revelation that from 2012 universities will be able to charge tuition fees of up to £9,000 – almost three times more than the current cap.

"I suppose every generation has it bad in some way or another, but we've been screwed over, to be honest," said Dara.

"There are 19 millionaires in that cabinet and all of them went to university for free. It was their generation that caused the economic problems we're in, so why are we the ones being made to suffer?

Scrapped

"There will now be a generation of kids who won't be able to go to university because of what this Government has done."

Before the General Election, then-shadow education secretary Michael Gove flatly denied the Conservatives were planning to scrap the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) – a £30-a-week payment scheme supporting 16- to 19-year-olds from lower-income families.

However, last month it was revealed the programme will be axed in January.

The Government also plans to reduce the amount of funding per student for sixth-formers, while council-run services like youth clubs also face an uncertain future.

Dara said: "I'm not completely against the winter fuel allowance, free TV licences and free bus passes, but what have they taken off older people? Not a lot.

"We're still waiting to hear where young people stand in the Government's vision. We've got this Big Society thing, but I don't think they know what that is themselves.

"The nearest we've got to an explanation is Baroness Warsi telling us she once helped to clean a public car park."

Dara, from the Stanhope estate in Ashford, was one of many young politicians from across the UK who took part in a House of Commons debate earlier this month. But while he praised the Youth Parliament scheme for highlighting the issues affecting young people, Dara said he would prefer to see its funding spent on council-run youth services.

He also voiced dismay that during the debate neither he nor any of his peers were permitted to speak about the cuts.

"We spent half an hour talking about Afghanistan – what a waste of time," he said. "Although there are young people in the armed forces, the spending cuts are affecting us more than the war and yet we weren't allowed to discuss them.

"It's important to get young people involved in politics and I think the Youth Parliament does a great job in that respect, but it's not good for an organisation that prides itself on democracy to prevent us discussing something so important."

Meanwhile, the 2010 Kent Youth County Council elections will be running from this weekend until Thursday, November 18. See www.kent.gov.uk for more information.

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

Angry students on the march

ANGRY students from across Kent took to the streets of London to protest against higher tuition fees and cuts to education funding.

Canterbury Christ Church University and the University of Kent were among the institutions represented at Wednesday's demonstrations, which descended into anarchy when some campaigners clashed with police.

Members of the University of Kent Islamic Society were also in attendance, as rules on finance mean Muslim students may not be able to accept loans due to the higher interest rates being placed on repayments.

"Politicians have consistently let students down over the years but these proposals go too far," said Mike Moran, regional official for the University and College Union (UCU).

"If implemented, the Government's plans will completely change the landscape of further and higher education. They would represent the final nail in the coffin of affordable university education and the end of genuine choice of degree for thousands."

According to research by UCU, the annual cost of studying for a degree has increased by 311.5 per cent since 1988. The union says if the cost of the weekly shop had increased at the same rate then a pint of milk would now cost £1.07 and a kilo of sausages £7.90.

"The rest of the world is investing in education yet we're doing the opposite," said Mr Moran. "College grants that are often the difference between some students being able to study or not are being axed, and university students are expected to shoulder the burden of punitive cuts to teaching grants.

"Wednesday was another step in our campaign against the cuts to education and the fight for an education system that is fair and progressive."

Darling Buds actress wants compassion for all carers

By MARIJKE COX
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

DARLING Buds of May star Pam Ferris has called for more compassion and understanding by professionals towards carers.

The actress, who looked after her mother and in later years her mother-in-law, who suffers from Alzheimer's, spoke out at a meeting of the Carers' Support charity in Ashford.

Ms Ferris also called the Government's spending cuts "cruel" and voiced her concerns over the effect they could have on struggling carers.

"It costs money to think short-term," she said. "They must streamline and simplify services. There is a need for compassion and understanding from professionals."

The 62-year-old, best known for her roles as Ma Larkin alongside David Jason in The Darling Buds of May, filmed in Pluckley, and Laura Thyme in detective mystery series Rosemary and Thyme, touched on her own experiences as a carer.

SPEAKING OUT: Pam Ferris

"I felt guilty that I hadn't done the job well, as most carers do," she said.

She explained how hard it was trying to get support and the right care, describing it as "navigating the misty maze of bureaucracy".

Ms Ferris said her experiences drove her to provide a voice for carers, becoming an honorary vice-president for the Princess Royal Trust for Carers. She is now campaigning to get more support for people looking after others.

Liz Tredget, operations manager at Carers' Support, said Ms Ferris was shocked at how things had not changed.

"She looked after her mother 10 years ago, then her mother-in-law, and was shocked to see things hadn't got any better," said Mrs Tredget.

"There is a lack of understanding within authorities and people can't get the information they need. We get so many inquiries – about 250 to 300 a month – from people who are at their wits' end about how to get relevant information."

Carers' Support, whose patron is Ashford MP and immigration minister Damian Green, was selected to pilot the Kent Emergency Card, working with Kent County Council and health trusts. The card is designed to ensure a person is looked after if their carer is suddenly not available, for example if they are taken ill or involved in an accident.

Carers carry the card – which has a unique reference number and an emergency phone number to KCC's 24-hour contact centre – everywhere they go. Staff can immediately access the carer's pre-arranged plans to ensure the person in need of support is looked after.

Mrs Tredget said the charity, which is part-funded by KCC and the health trusts, was concerned about how the cuts could affect carers.

"The council and primary care trusts' funding means we can help look after carers for them," she said. "We're very concerned about the impact these funding problems could have.

"I hope the event with Pam Ferris will raise awareness and show that there are many people out there, some who may not even think of themselves as carers, who are in the same situation."

For information about how to get help, go to www.carers-ashford.org.uk.

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

Chemical reaction

FIREFIGHTERS had to battle through thick smoke to rescue three casualties at a Gravesend chemical plant – but thankfully it was just an exercise.

More than 30 officers and six appliances were put through their paces at the Comma Oil and Chemicals plant. A warehouse fire was mocked up with three casualties inside.

Exercise director and crew manager Mark Hart said: "We wanted to examine our response and how our plans would work in conjunction with Comma's procedures.

"This exercise allowed us to train in realistic conditions and enabled personnel to develop their awareness and operational skills."

MOTORISTS should not have to cough up for the cost of new equipment to ease congestion at the Dartford Crossing, according to readers at kentnews.co.uk. An online poll asked: 'Should motorists have to pay for new technology at Dartford?" Of the 258 who voted, just 25 (nine per cent) answered 'yes'.

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Stones statue proposed for station

PLATFORM SOULS: Glass fibre model of how Jagger/Richards statue could look

LIVERPOOL has the Beatles and Dartford has the Rolling Stones – but the 1960s arch-rivals are not only miles apart in music, but also in the number of statues commemorating their success.

Now sculptor Anthony Hawken wants to change all that and needs to raise £150,000 for a spectacular bronze of the Kent rockers.

He said: "A friend was in Liverpool a while back and was struck by the statues of John Lennon and the Beatles.

"He said Dartford needed something similar and I agree. In 1962 Keith Richards and Mick Jagger met at Dartford station, travelled to London together, found they had so much in common and the Stones were born.

"A statue of the pair on the platform would be ideal. I'm all for it, now we need to get permission and raise the money. It is not a lot to bring in and with a few public collections we should get it together quite quickly.

"We all love the Stones and surely the people of Dartford and Kent would support this."

The duo, responsible for some of the greatest pop music of the 1960s and 70s, first met at Wentworth Primary School before going their separate ways – until that fateful meeting at Dartford train station.

Mr Hawken, a professional sculptor, studied at Medway College of Art and at the Royal Academy Schools.

He has works in the British Museum, the Victoria and Albert Museum, the National Arts Club, New York, and in public and private and corporate collections in Britain and abroad. He said: "I have created two maquettes out of glass fibre which are a couple of feet tall and give an idea what the statue could look like, but they can be changed before the final item is created.

HIGH FIVE: Mick and Keith with fellow Stones in the Sixties

"This is a great opportunity to produce something that will remember our finest rock musicians."

Keith Richards' first home in Chastilian Road was hit by a V1 'doodlebug' flying bomb at the end of World War Two, and he moved to Spielman Road.

Mick Jagger lived in Denver Road. Both were born in 1943 in Livingstone Hospital, East Hill, Dartford.

Both Dartford Council and Network Rail are looking into the idea of the statue.

Calls for end to 'official roadblock' on 20mph zones outside schools

By **MARIJKE COX**
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

A GREEN Party MEP has accused County Hall chiefs and police of resisting Government advice on 20mph zones outside schools.

Keith Taylor, who is responsible for road safety issues on the European Parliament's transport committee, said Kent Police were blocking proposals for 20mph areas outside schools despite "overwhelming support" from local people.

The Kent MEP is now writing to new Chief Constable Ian Learmonth, urging him to support 20mph areas without other traffic calming measures.

"Both Oxford and Portsmouth have shown that 20mph residential streets reduce the speed of traffic without the need for other calming measures," said Mr Taylor.

"The Government's advice on 20mph zones is also very clear. However, there is still resistance from both Kent County Council and Kent Police to implement these sensible changes.

"I can't think of anything more reasonable than reducing the speed limits around schools, yet there seems to be little enthusiasm to do this despite the overwhelming support of local people. The facts are clear: a pedestrian hit by a car travelling at 20mph is likely to suffer slight injuries, but at 30mph they are likely to be severely hurt. At 40mph or above they are likely to be killed."

Plans introduced last year gave councils permission to place 20mph limits on more streets without having to include expensive speed humps or chicanes. Mr Taylor, who has been working closely with Maidstone councillor Tom Sams on the campaign, is urging Kent's authorities to implement the advice.

But KCC's cabinet member for highways, Cllr Nick Chard, said it was not always practical to have a 20mph limit in school zones outside of peak periods. "I have already been talking to officers about what we can do to further improve safety in a practical way," he said.

"I would like to see us using modern technology such as amber flashing lights to warn drivers that children are coming and going outside schools at peak periods. I want us to look at what we can do to get drivers to slow down. We have a very good record in keeping people safe and I am very happy to talk with schools as road safety is paramount."

Kent Police said although they enforce speed limits, the force does not set them.

Ashford resident Ted Prangnell echoed Mr Taylor's comments, stating KCC seemed reluctant to introduce 20mph limits.

"I know from personal experience what it is like, as a pedestrian, to be hit by a car," he said. "Years ago when I was walking in a 30mph residential zone, a route to school, I was hit by a car and knocked 25 metres. It was touch and go that I survived.

"Virtually nothing has been done to improve safety in the road in question. The whole of Kent's road signs and speed restrictions should be reviewed by people who understand."

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Community Health Showcase - Main Hall
11.00am - 1pm Showcase event for Community Health including stands about our services + Panel 'Question and Answer Session' with senior staff from Community Health
1pm - 1.30pm Break - refreshments

Community Health Board (optional attendance) - Lower Lounge
1.30pm Formal Community Health Board meeting held in public
4.30pm Close of meeting

Copies of the Agenda and papers will be available on our website, please visit www.eckcommunityservices.nhs.uk

For questions relating to the agenda please contact:
Jill Mackenzie
Tel: 01233 667840
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Indefinite detention in the dock

CAMPAIGNERS fighting to bring an end to the indefinite detention of illegal migrants are to speak out about the plight of detainees.

By **MARIJKE COX**
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

Charities, law experts and a former inmate will voice their concerns as part of a national campaign at the University of Kent next week.

The Bishop of Dover, the Rt Rev Trevor Willmott, will join representatives from the Dover Detainee Visitor Group, the London Detainee Support Group (LDSG), Kent Refugee Help, and the Kent Law Clinic on the discussion panel. The Detained Lives campaign, led by the LDSG, aims to scrap the indefinite detention of detainees held in immigration centres across the UK.

Dover Immigration Removal Centre is one of a number of centres in England keeping male asylum seekers locked up – costing the taxpayer more than £68,000 a year per immigrant – without letting them know how long for.

On a visit to Dover, Bishop Willmott said: "We are all children of God and it is essential we treat all people with justice and dignity and that we look beyond the label of detainee."

Campaigners argue that Government routinely holds asylum seekers and migrants for years in detention centres, but holds terror suspects in custody for just 28 days. They called it a "hidden abuse of civil liberties".

Jerome Phelps, director of the LDSG, said: "Indefinite detainees are trapped in a bureaucratic nightmare without end, unable to be released or deported.

"The UK is one of a very few countries in Europe that persists in detaining people with no time limit, despite the evidence that it does not work. Indefinite detention is futile, expensive and immensely damaging, so we are campaigning to end this unacceptable practice."

Dover Immigration Removal Centre, a prison-run service, has room for 314 male detainees aged over 18.

Vebi Kosumi, director of the Dover Detainee Visitor Group, said there needed to be a time limit in place for how long they could be held.

Currently, they can be detained for as long as it takes to decide upon their future, whether it is returning them to their home country or sending them to relatives in the UK who can support them financially.

"I think it is a reasonable request to allow detainees to know how long they are going to be kept at the centre for," said Mr Kosumi. "What we would like to see is the Government not only putting an end to child detention, but also giving adult detainees a time limit."

Blamed

Immigration minister and Ashford Tory MP Damien Green told KoS last month he had set up an asylum improvement project to try to reduce the amount of time illegal immigrants were locked up.

He blamed indeterminate detention on the time it took to get cases and reviews heard.

A recent report by the LDSG – No Return, No Release, No Reason – found two-thirds of migrants held in detention centres are never deported.

The free roadshow takes place from 6.15pm on Wednesday, November 17, at Keynes Lecture Theatre 1, Keynes College, University of Kent in Canterbury.

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

Rare bat found by rainforest researchers

RESEARCHERS from the University of Kent have discovered a rare bat in a tiny fragment of rainforest.

It is the first record of the Ridley's leaf-nosed bat in Sumatra, an island in western Indonesia.

The discovery of the species in woodland surrounded by an oil palm plantation is proof that even the smallest area of rainforest is worth saving, said the University of Kent research team.

Staff from the university's Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE) along with those from Queen Mary University of London and the Zoological Society of London, discovered the Ridley's leaf-nosed bat in a 300 hectare fragment of forest during a biodiversity survey in west Sumatra.

And it wasn't just the strange-looking bat that was discovered. The team also spotted sunbears, tapirs, agile gibbons and banded langurs – all of which are also endangered.

Survey leader Dr Matthew Struebig said: "The findings of our survey suggest a network of forest fragments may be appropriate for some species of high conservation concern.

"We need to continue to support the business community to find ways in which threatened wildlife can persist in these managed areas over the long-term."

Palm oil producers have to identify areas they can conserve in order to start logging. The scheme is called the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil.

Members have to identify high conservation areas within their concession that could be affected, then implement measures to maintain and enhance these areas, said the research team. That has happened to the parcel of land in Sumatra which led to these wildlife discoveries.

Picture: COPYRIGHT ZSL MATT STRUEBIG

RARE DISCOVERY: Ridley's leaf-nosed bat

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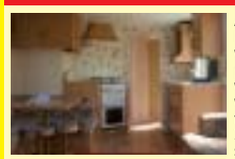

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School bus crash

FIREFIGHTERS had to free a driver from his car after he was involved in a crash with a school coach.

The children on the Kent County Council coach were examined by paramedics, but none were injured during the collision on Monday, November 8, at 4.15pm in Four Elms near Edenbridge.

Police said the crash between a blue Renault Clio and the coach on the B2042 damaged at least two stationary vehicles.

The driver of the Clio was taken to hospital with what are thought to be minor injuries.

The road was closed while the incident was dealt with and reopened shortly after 6pm.

Vomit bug ban

PEOPLE with Norovirus symptoms have been urged to stay away from hospitals to prevent the spread of the winter-vomiting bug.

Dr Sara Mumford, director of infection prevention and control at Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust, said the next few months marked the period when the unpleasant bug becomes particularly common.

"It causes an unpleasant but generally short-lived illness from which people will usually recover without treatment. As well as vomiting and diarrhoea, some people may have a raised temperature, headaches and aching limbs," she said. "If you have symptoms do not visit loved ones in hospital or nursing homes until you have been free of symptoms for at least 72 hours.

"Norovirus is a particular problem for hospitals because we are looking after already unwell people who may have reduced immunity and are susceptible to infection."

Norovirus is the most frequent cause of infectious gastroenteritis and affects around one million people in the UK every year.

She added: "If the illness persists for more than a few days, contact your family doctor by phone or take advice from NHS Direct."

Hunt is on for the best in food and drink industry

KoS is backing the search to find Kent's food and drink heroes.

The Taste of Kent Awards is now in its sixth year and recognises the county's most outstanding food and drink producers, retailers, restaurants, pubs and farmers' markets, and is one of those rare opportunity's when you, the general public, have a hand in choosing the businesses with the X factor.

The Taste of Kent Awards are the brainchild of Produced in Kent, the organisation which champions Kent's home-grown food and drink companies.

This year there are 12 categories, including six new ones, and the deadline for voting is Monday, January 3, 2011.

Last year's Taste of Kent Awards clearly struck a chord with the public as all previous voting records were smashed.

Votes topped the 10,000 mark, and there was an incredible 89 per cent increase in the number of votes cast.

Now, Produced in Kent is going for gold and hopes to attract an additional 2,000 votes, pushing the public vote over 12,000, and organisers are looking to KoS readers to help break the record.

The three companies receiving the most votes from the public in each category will be shortlisted and go before an expert judging panel, mystery shoppers and mystery diners in January, 2011.

On February 25, 2011, the 12 winners will be revealed at a glittering awards ceremony at Leeds Castle.

Karen Williams, proprietor at The Mulberry Tree in Boughton Monchelsea, who won Best Kent Restaurant of the Year in 2008 and 09 said: "It's tremendously heartening to know that in the first round of voting it is the general public who are giving you a big vote of confidence and directly applauding what you are doing."

Double winner Shipbourne Farmers' Market agreed. Manager Bob Taylor said: "I would encourage as many people as possible who care about local food and drink to vote this year – it's a wonderful award to win."

TASTE OF KENT AWARDS

WELL WON: Second from right, Karen Williams receives her second consecutive Kent Restaurant of the Year award

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- No December payments ever

*Finance is subject to status, terms & conditions apply, written details on request, indemnities may be required, over 18s only. Nil deposit and nothing to pay until next year finance is provided by Peugeot Financial Services, Quadrant House, Princess Way, Redhill, RH1 1QA. Waters AutoPlanet will provide cash back to cover your credit facility fee and your first payment which is due in December 2010. You have nothing to pay until January 2011. Typical APR 16.9%. Offer only available on finance agreements over a term of 39 months or more. Cars shown for illustrative purposes only. All prices correct at time of going to press.†Selected vehicles within ARG Ltd group stock are cheaper than Parker's franchise retail price for a nearest mileage and specification match.

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	Was	Now	Save
10 10 Chevrolet Aveo LT 1.4 5dr Silver 1070 miles	£7750	£6499	£1251
08 08 Citroen C3 1.6 HDi 16V Exclusiv 5dr BLUE 15502 miles	£9000	£7795	£1205
07 07 Citroen C4 Picasso 1.8 16v VTR Plus 7str 5dr BLUE 31164 miles	£8790	£7495	£1295
07 07 Daihatsu Sirion 1.0 SE 5dr Silver 13190 miles	£6400	£5495	£905
08 08 Fiat Grande Punto 1.4 16v T-Jet Sporting 3dr Red 35322 miles	£6400	£6195	£205
08 58 Ford Fiesta 1.25 Style 5dr [Climate] Black 14139 miles	£6999	£6199	£800
09 58 Ford Fiesta 1.4 TDCi Style + 3dr AVALON BLUE 37186 miles	£8299	£7995	£304
09 58 Ford Focus 1.6 Style 5dr BLUE 27342 miles	£8940	£7395	£1545
08 58 Ford Focus 1.8 TDCi Style 5dr Black 16753 miles	£9940	£9000	£940
09 59 Ford Ka 1.2 Zetec 3dr MOONDUST SILVER 6464 miles	£8700	£7999	£701
10 10 Kia Ceed 1.6 CRDi 89 1 5dr White 6486 miles	£11995	£10000	£1995
10 10 Kia Ceed 1.6 CRDi 89 1 5dr White 3954 miles	£11995	£10000	£1995
09 09 Kia Ceed SW 1.6 CRDi 5dr White 3179 miles	£13380	£12000	£1380
08 08 Kia Picanto 1.0 5dr Black 20094 miles	£6025	£5000	£1025
07 07 Kia Sorento 2.5 CRDi XS 5dr Blue 39869 miles	£13499	£13000	£499
09 09 Kia Soul 1.6 2 5dr Silver 12253 miles	£10200	£9499	£701
09 59 Renault Megane 1.4 16V TCE Dynamique 5dr White 5483 miles	£13999	£11000	£2999
07 56 Renault Megane 1.9 dCi 130 Dynamique 5dr Silver 40391 miles	£6700	£5799	£901
08 58 Seat Altea XL 2.0 TDI Stylance 5dr Grey 1887 miles	£13200	£12200	£1000
07 57 Seat Altea XL 2.0 TDI Stylance 5dr Red 31070 miles	£10065	£9299	£766
09 59 Seat EXEO 2.0 TDI CR SE Lux 4dr [170] Ada Blue 6061 miles	£17345	£15499	£1846
08 58 Seat Ibiza 1.2 S 3dr [AC] Black 16230 miles	£8000	£7299	£701
09 09 Seat Ibiza 1.4 SE 3dr LUNA GREY 15816 miles	£9275	£8000	£1275
09 09 Seat Ibiza 1.4 Sport 3dr Silver 20146 miles	£8700	£8000	£700
09 09 Seat Ibiza 1.4 Sport 3dr Yellow 16657 miles	£8499	£8199	£300
08 08 Seat Ibiza 1.4 Sport 3dr [85] Silver 13540 miles	£8495	£7000	£1495
10 10 Seat Ibiza 1.4 TDI Ecomotive 3dr Red 6089 miles	£11499	£11190	£309
10 10 Seat Ibiza 1.4 TDI S 3dr [AC] Silver 1486 miles	£11499	£9490	£2009
10 59 Seat Ibiza 1.6 TDI CR Sport 3dr Yellow 1829 miles	£12020	£11000	£1020

09 58 Seat Leon 2.0 16V T FSI Cupra 5dr Speed Blue 5976 miles	£16995	£15500	£1495
08 58 Seat Leon 2.0 16V T FSI Cupra 5dr Orange 4268 miles	£15999	£14499	£1500
08 58 Seat Leon 2.0 16V T FSI FR 5dr Black Magic 1830 miles	£14085	£12499	£1586
09 59 Seat Leon 2.0 TSI Cupra 5dr Black 5020 miles	£18700	£16799	£1901
09 59 Toyota IQ 1.0 VVT-i 3dr TYROL SILVER 6915 miles	£8990	£7600	£1390
06 06 Vauxhall Astra Cabriolet 2.0T 16V Design 2dr Silver 22100 miles	£10000	£9000	£1000
07 07 Vauxhall Meriva 1.6i 16V Life 5dr Easytronic [AC] Blue 3656 miles	£6700	£5799	£901
07 07 Volkswagen Touran 1.6 S 102 BLACK 50939 miles	£8000	£7300	£700

	Parker's Price	Our Price	Save
06 56 Audi A3 1.9 TDi Sport 5dr Met Blue 65337 miles	£9535	£9000	£535
08 58 Audi A6 2.0 TDI TDV Limited Edition 4dr Red 33828 miles	£15875	£15499	£376
07 57 BMW 1 Series 120d SE 5dr Blue Met 58966 miles	£12655	£12499	£156
06 06 BMW 3 Series 318i M Sport 4dr Blue 58808 miles	£10975	£10900	£75
07 57 BMW 3 Series 320d M Sport 4dr Blue 29509 miles	£16505	£14495	£2010
07 07 BMW 3 Series 320d SE 4dr Jet Black 51789 miles	£12665	£12000	£665
06 56 BMW 5 Series Estate 520d M Sport i-drive Blue 76354 miles	£15030	£14299	£731
07 57 Chrysler Grand Voyager 2.8 crd LX 5dr Auto Silver 33722 miles	£12670	£11299	£1371
07 07 Citroen C4 Picasso 1.6HDi 16V SX 5dr EGS Red 34448 miles	£9005	£8699	£306
08 58 Citroen C4 Picasso 1.6HDi 16V VTR Plus 5dr EGS 26872 miles	£11490	£10250	£1240
07 57 Citroen C4 Picasso 2.0HDi 16V VTR Plus 5dr EGS 40k miles	£9360	£8499	£861
06 56 Citroen Xsara 1.6 HDi 92 Desire 5dr Grey 37000 miles	£5730	£5700	£30
08 58 Fiat Grande Punto 1.3 Multijet Eleganza 5dr Auto Blue 6276 miles	£8325	£8000	£325
09 59 Ford Focus Estate 1.6 Zetec 5dr Auto Avalon Blue 7740 miles	£10470	£10000	£470
07 57 Ford Galaxy 2.0 TDCi Ghia 5dr Auto Panther Black 28741 miles	£15230	£15000	£230
09 59 Ford S-Max 2.0 TDCi Zetec 5dr Silver 25258 miles	£15585	£14999	£586
06 56 Honda FR-V 2.2 i-CTDi SE 5dr Sparkle Grey Met 62056 miles	£9100	£9000	£100
07 07 Honda Jazz 1.4 i-DSi Sport 5dr Red 39173 miles	£6550	£6499	£51
07 57 Jaguar X-type 2.0d S 4dr Black 44541 miles	£10355	£10000	£355
07 57 Jaguar X-type 2.0d S 4dr Red 69581 miles	£8545	£8499	£46
07 07 Jeep Patriot 2.0 CRD Limited 5dr Silver 35053 miles	£11180	£11000	£180

09 59 Kia Ceed 1.6 GS Crdi 5dr Artic White 6050 miles	£10605	£9400	£1205
07 57 Kia Ceed 1.6 LS Crdi 5dr Englsh Pewter 11113 miles	£9585	£8495	£1090
06 06 Kia Sorento 2.5 CRDi XS 5dr Silver 30023 miles	£11745	£11495	£250
07 57 Mazda Mazda5 2.0d Sport 5dr Black 67420 miles	£9555	£8000	£1555
07 57 Mazda RX8 4dr [231] Blue 37269 miles	£9515	£9000	£515
07 07 Mercedes-Benz B Class B180 CDI 5dr Black 39593 miles	£10610	£10000	£610
05 05 Mercedes-Benz C Class C180K SE 4dr Auto Silver 53765 miles	£9835	£9500	£335
08 08 Merc C Class Coupe C180 Komp SE Sports Silver 17045 miles	£13930	£12699	£1231
04 04 Mercedes-Benz CLK 200K Avantgarde 2dr Silver 48972 miles	£13390	£11999	£1391
07 57 Merc E Class E280 CDI Classic 4dr Tip Auto Green 34352 miles	£18750	£14495	£4255
07 57 Mitsubishi Outlander 2.0 DI-D Elegance 5dr Blue Met 53k miles	£15275	£14499	£776
09 09 Nissan Note 1.4 Acenta 5dr Silver 11666 miles	£8760	£8499	£261
08 57 Nissan Qashqai 1.5 dCi Tekna 5dr Beige 15801 miles	£14505	£14499	£6
07 57 Nissan Qashqai 1.6 Acenta 5dr Orange 50215 miles	£9450	£9000	£450
07 07 Nissan Qashqai 2.0 Acenta 5dr CVT Blue 20368 miles	£11505	£11000	£505
08 58 Saab 09-Mar 1.9 TTiD 180 Vector Sport 4dr silver 16k miles	£15295	£14499	£796
06 06 Saab 09-May 1.9TiD Auto Vector sport 06 Silver 60206 miles	£7990	£7495	£495
09 09 Seat Ibiza 1.2 S (Ac) 5dr LUNA GREY 15372 miles	£7470	£7000	£470
09 09 Seat Ibiza 1.4 SE 5dr LUNA GREY 12067 miles	£8280	£8200	£80
08 08 Seat Ibiza 1.9 TDi FR 3dr Grey 20173 miles	£9440	£9200	£240
08 58 Toyota Corolla Verso 1.6 VVT-i T2 5dr Colbolt Blue Met 16k miles	£10110	£10000	£110
08 08 Vauxhall Astra 1.6T 16V SRi 3dr Black 18523 miles	£10750	£9500	£1250
07 57 Vauxhall Astra 1.8 Elite 16v 140 5dr BEIGE 18632 miles	£7765	£7500	£265
08 08 Vauxhall Astra 1.9 CDTi 8V SXi [120] 3dr STAR SILVER 24411 miles	£8820	£8200	£620
07 07 Vauxhall Astra Coupe 1.8i VVT SRi 3dr Black 31805 miles	£8145	£7500	£645
09 09 Vauxhall Corsa 1.4i 16V Club 5dr Auto [AC] Black 13246 miles	£8190	£7799	£391
07 07 Vauxhall Zafira 1.9 CDTi Design [150] 5dr [Euro 4] Grey 44k miles	£9355	£9000	£355
08 08 Volkswagen Touran 2.0 TDI DPF Sport 5dr Silver 22134 miles	£14900	£14500	£400
07 07 Volvo S40 1.6 S 4dr Grey 12035 miles	£8430	£7995	£435

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Angry MP 'sickened' by prisoners' voting rights

FURIOUS MPs say they feel physically sick at the thought of convicted murderers and rapists being given the right to vote.

Prisoners may soon be able to influence election results following a controversial ruling by the European Court of Human Rights, which says the current system in the UK is discriminatory.

And because it would cost the Government £160 million to dispute the judgement, Prime Minister David Cameron says he is resigned to accepting a reform of voting laws made almost 150 years ago.

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

Dartford MP Gareth Johnson said he agreed with Mr Cameron's answer to his query during Prime Minister's Questions last week, when he said it made him "physically ill" to contemplate giving prisoners the vote.

Mr Johnson said: "It is wrong for murderers to be able to vote. When somebody steps outside of the law and commits an offence which leads to imprisonment, then that person has given up their right to help run the state. Britain should decide on whether or not British prisoners should be able to vote, not the European Court of Human Rights. It is perhaps now time for Britain to reconsider its membership of the court."

Lifers

Kent is home to a number of prisons which house high-risk offenders, including the Category B Swaleside that is part of a three-prison cluster on the Isle of Sheppey.

Had the 1,834 inmates the three jails house been allowed to vote in the 2005 General Election – which former Labour MP Derek Wyatt won by just 74 – then they could have heavily influenced the final result.

Even so, the man who lost to out to Mr Wyatt that day – the constituency's current Tory MP Gordon Henderson – says he too is opposed to prisoners being allowed to vote unless they are awaiting trial on remand.

Ministers are now examining ways that limits could be placed on which inmates can vote, such as continuing the ban for 'lifers'.

It is also believed judges may be given responsibility for eventually deciding which criminals are allowed to vote when they are sentenced.

Details are still being worked out by the Government, but it is expected some prisoners will vote in the constituency of their home address, but those without a fixed home may vote in the constituency where the jail is sited.

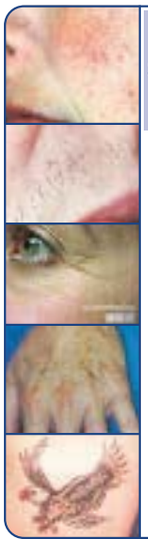
Bank protection

MAIDSTONE'S newest listed building is also its youngest.

The former Barclays Bank in Middle Row, – now known as Sunley House – has been given Grade-II listing by English Heritage.

It was designed in the late 1950s by Sir William Holford, an architect and planner described in one obituary as "the father of town planning as practiced today".

English Heritage call the building "a bold piece of modern architectural design which employs a variety of materials and sculptural decoration to create a rich composition of colour, pattern and surface texture".



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WIN VIP passes to lights switch-on

ONE lucky KoS reader will win two VIP passes to Ashford Designer Outlet's Christmas light switch-on event on Thursday, plus a £150 gift card.

The VIP winner, plus a friend, will get the chance to meet X Factor finalist John Adeleye, who will be performing at the light switch on, as well as tribute act Re-Take That and girl band The Scarletz.

The gift card can be spent at any of the outlet's stores – a great chance to get ahead with your Christmas shopping or to treat yourself to something special.

The light switch-on event will also mark the launch of the outlet's free Christmas activities, including a giant maze in the theme of a winter wonderland where real snow will fall every evening at 6pm, and at 4pm on Sundays.

The Christmas launch event starts at 6pm, with the light switch on taking place at 8pm.

Located off junction 10 of the M20, McArthurGlen's Ashford Designer Outlet is open seven days a week. For more information, visit www.ashforddesigneroutlet.com, call 01233 895900 or follow the outlet on twitter @ashford_outlet.

To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Ashford Designer Outlet Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS. The closing date is Wednesday, November 17, 2010.

Question: Which X Factor finalist will be turning on the Christmas lights at the Ashford designer outlet this year?

A Storm Lee
B Treyc Cohen
C John Adeleye

No purchase necessary. For full terms and conditions visit www.kentnews.co.uk, or call 01303 817073. If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry.

X FACTOR: The winner will get to meet singer John Adeleye

New kid on the healthcare block's prevention agenda

By **MARJKE COX**
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

A COMMUNITY care service has become one of just eight in the country to break away from its primary care trust, in a move signalling the emergence of a new type of healthcare provider.

Eastern and Coastal Kent Community Services, which serves 740,000 people in the county, was selected by the Department of Health from 150 PCTs to become a trust in its own right.

It means more freedom in shaping services, such as nursing in people's own homes, minor-injury units, cardiac treatment and intermediate care, and the possibility of increased funding.

Previously, the community care services were run through NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent, the commissioning PCT for the area.

The new organisation will now control its own services as part of a move by Government to increase access to care and treatment in the community.

Philip Greenhill, interim chief executive of the new trust, said it will help clinicians, district nurses and GPs support people outside of acute hospital services.

"A strong community service not only means helping people once they leave hospital, but also reduces inappropriate hospital admissions," he said. "We can also help delay admissions into care homes for older people by providing help at home.

"Preventative measures are a strong part of what our services are about, through promoting health and well-being, and as a trust we can now work even more closely with our local community and GPs."

Mr Greenhill said he believes support from GPs could be vital in improvement of services.

"GPs have a very close relationship with community services and they will support this move," he said. "Through this support we could potentially receive more funding."

Mr Greenhill said the organisation was selected to become a trust after staff proved they were capable of being a strong organisation with the ability to deliver services effectively.

Around 3,500 staff, made up of community nurses, physiotherapists, dieticians and other healthcare professionals, work for the organisation, which helps 150,000 people a year.

Services are funded mainly by NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent and provided in people's own homes, in nursing homes, health clinics, community hospitals, minor injury units and walk-in centres.

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Passing on the story of Unknown Warrior

NINETY years ago this week, the body of an unidentified British soldier was brought home to England as a symbol of the unknown dead found on World War One battlefields, ***writes Marijke Cox***.

Crowds lined the streets of Dover to pay homage to the Unknown Warrior as his coffin was brought to shore from France, before being taken to its final resting place at Westminster Abbey.

It became the focus of national grief, serving as a reminder of all the soldiers who had sacrificed their lives and for the families who had no grave to visit.

To commemorate the 90th anniversary of the homecoming, the Dover War Memorial Project (DWMP) launched a new venture to teach youngsters the significance of the Unknown Warrior during Remembrance week.

A grant of £28,000 was secured through the Heritage Lottery Fund for the educational project, along with other DWMP work and a number of initiatives were held at schools, and Scouts and Brownie groups.

Significant

Marilyn Stephenson-Knight, co-founder of the DWMP, said the grant would help continue the work of teaching newer generations about the major events in history and the significance of Remembrance.

"One of our aims is to ensure our new generations understand the significance of remembrance and the lives and sacrifices of their forebearers," she said.

"We are delighted to receive this grant enabling us to help young people learn the meaning of the Unknown Warrior as we commemorate the 90th anniversary of his return to Britain on November 10, 1920."

Activities in schools in Dover, Chatham and London saw children handling original artefacts and researching the lives of those who died in the two world wars.

Scouts and Brownies designed stained-glass windows with a professional artist and a musical performance was put on in Dover at St Martin's School.

Trips to Westminster Abbey to visit the grave of the Unknown Warrior were held and youngsters laid tributes in the Field of Remembrance before watching a play, The Mothers of Britain, about two women travelling to the funeral of the soldier, both believing him to be their son.

The grant is also being used to create educational resources for seven to 11-year-olds.

Ms Stephenson-Knight added: "The Unknown Warrior project follows on from the Walter Tull and Not Forgotten projects in 2008 and 2009.

"It's superb to be working again with our partners the City of Westminster Archives and Westminster Abbey and to welcome new partners the Royal Artillery (Firepower) Museum in Woolwich, Medway Archives along with Chelsea Football Club."

Children involved in the DWMP, which is run by volunteers, studied the history of six soldiers with no known graves – any one of whom could have become the Unknown Warrior.

In November 1920, Brigadier General LJ Wyatt, a general officer commanding British troops in France and Flanders, stood before the bodies of unidentified soldiers in a chapel in Ypres. He was to choose a soldier to become the symbol of the unknown dead.

It followed an idea by Rev David Railton, who, while serving as an Army chaplain, saw a grave marked by a rough cross with the pencil-written words 'An Unknown British Soldier'.

General Wyatt closed his eyes and touched the Union Jack flag on one of the bodies, selecting the Unknown Warrior, who was placed inside a coffin and sealed.

It was brought across the Channel in a Royal Navy destroyer, which was met half way by six others with their flags at half-mast – an honour usually reserved for the King.

On November 11 at 11am the coffin was carried into Westminster Abbey to a congregation of 1,000 people made up of recipients of the Victoria Cross and grieving families.

In just five days more than a million people paid their respects at the grave.

SYMBOLIC: Right, the body of the Unknown Warrior is brought to Westminster Abbey, his final resting place, pictured below

EDUCATIONAL: Scouts and Brownies work on a background for their window as part of the Dover War Memorial Project

'Sell-off jackpot? Chance would be a fine thing'

SOUND BUSINESS: Bob Goldfield says privatisation is vital for the port, employment opportunities, and the regeneration of Dover

Port of Dover chief Bob Goldfield talks to KoS business editor STEVE LOADER about the storm he and his management team have whipped up since they first released privatisation proposals. The scheme has now gone to government for review and all parties are waiting anxiously for an outcome

EXCLUSIVE

PORT of Dover chief executive Bob Goldfield has fired a fresh salvo over privatisation plans that have sparked such a row with the community, ferry operators and port staff.

He also rejected suggestions that he and his managers were pushing the sale so that they could walk away with a multi-million pound jackpot: "Chance would be a fine thing," he said, adding that no member of port staff could hope for more than £300,000 via an initial share valuation and they would be unable to unlock that value for three years.

Scathing

He reiterated: "There are no millions here."

Far from turning his back on the port after sale, he also wanted to expand the business, create more jobs and acquire other locations.

He was also scathing about the rival People's Port scheme to hive off the harbour into the hands of the local community, as championed by local Conservative MP Charlie Elphicke and backed by Dame Vera Lynn.

"It's not deliverable," said Mr Golding. "There is no understanding of what delivering [the future] Terminal 2 means – the millions of pounds it requires – and no understanding of the capital plan for the next five years.

"The People's Port proposal seems to make lots and lots of promises to lots of people [for instance] 'There will be lots of investment in Dover.' Well the Port of Dover is not a regeneration agency. It can act as a catalyst for regeneration, but that's not where its money can go.

"There is also an overt promise that they [the proposers[will put operators onto the board. Well that's a clear conflict of interests; they [the operators] are hardly going to vote for additional capacity so that new entrants can come in or for increases in tariffs, and yet all they are promising cannot be delivered without a substantial increase in tariff – even more than we are proposing actually."

He also questioned where People's Port proposers would find the £200 million to buy the port from the Government – keen to sell off assets to drive down UK debt.

He said: "If it were to be owned by the people of Dover, every man, woman and child – all 39,000 of them – would have to stump up over £5,000 per head to own the port of Dover; all the rhetoric of 'owned by the people of Dover' just doesn't make sense."

In contrast, he said, his team's proposals would deliver a shareholding to a community trust fund for regeneration in the coastal town – one of the most depressed areas in Kent: "The Government hasn't got the money for it and the people of Dover have waited long enough."

He also denied that, with the UK economy still flat and ferry companies battling a tough market, a sell-off was poorly timed, saying: "There is a lot of good money out there, looking for a home, and there are not many attractive investment opportunities that are secure, that actually have a lot of opportunity for adding value over a period of time."

And though there had been a well-publicised breakdown in relations with the ferry firms over port tariffs, he insisted both sides were still talking.

But he called on the ferries and arch-rival, the Channel Tunnel, to get real on pricing; current marketing of a £30 crossing for a car and four people was simply uneconomic he said, adding: "They must decide what kind of pricing they need and decide how to run their businesses and make a profit."

He was also unrepentant about holding £60 million of the ferry lines' cash as funding towards £85 million of new infrastructure they needed.

When asked whether the management had communicated its plans well though, he admitted: "Not effectively, not to the community anyway. To the business community – yes. They understand the issues and neither are they taken in by, shall we say, political rhetoric rather than hard facts."

• ***For a full transcript of the interview go to kentnews.co.uk.***

RIVALS: Port of Dover's management have come under fire from opposition in the form of the People's Port campaign

To see this clip search 'dispute' @ yourkenttv.co.uk

Yourkenttv's Julie Maddocks meets the main players in the Dover port privatisation dispute

Picture: MATT BUCK

SOLD: Canadian consortium bought the High Speed 1 network for £2.1 billion

High Speed 1 sale could put privatisation on fast track

THE higher-than-expected sale price of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link has sparked rumours the Government will speed up the privatisation of Dover port, ***writes Steve Knight.***

Last week a consortium of two Canadian pension funds agreed to purchase the High Speed 1 network for £2.1 billion – far higher than the £1.5bn originally expected – which Transport Secretary Philip Hammond says shows a "big vote of confidence in UK plc".

The Government is now expected to press ahead quickly with sales of other publicly-owned assets, with the Port of Dover thought to be one of the front-runners.

However, the Dartford crossing – mooted by the previous Labour government as a potential asset for sale – will remain under public ownership.

Mr Hammond said of the HS1 sale: "This is great news for taxpayers and rail passengers alike. It is a big vote of confidence in UK plc and a big vote in market confidence in the future of high speed rail.

"It also shows the decisive action this Government has taken to reduce the deficit is already paying dividends and that investors believe once again that Britain is open for business."

The Canadian consortium, which consists of Borealis Infrastructure and the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan, beat off competition from a number of other bidders including Channel Tunnel operator Eurotunnel.

It will run the 68-mile line for the next 30 years and will also take responsibility for the high-speed stations at Ashford and Ebbsfleet.

The auction process was managed for the Government by the state-owned London and Continental Railways, which has run the network thus far.

Chief executive Mark Bayley said: "I am very proud to have been associated with the business and its excellent management, and believe we have achieved an extremely good price for HS1 through a very competitive process."

LETTERS

KOS Media welcomes your comments and letters for publication. Please send correspondence to: Letters to the Editor, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS. Alternatively fax them to: 01303 817001, or email them to editorial@kosmedia.co.uk. Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances. Please also include a daytime telephone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit letters.

LETTER OF THE WEEK

Flying to the aid of airmen

This November the nation will stop to remember all those who have given their lives in the service of their country.

Of course, all three armed services deserve our thoughts and prayers at this time, but in this Battle of Britain 70th anniversary year it's important we show our appreciation for the contribution made by members of the Royal Air Force.

If it were not for the courage, determination and dedication to duty of those who fought in the Battle of Britain it is very possible this country would have been overwhelmed by the worst kind of tyranny.

It represents an extraordinary moment in our history, and one that should not be forgotten.

At the RAF Benevolent Fund, the RAF's leading welfare charity, we are devoted to honouring the debt of gratitude we owe to all those who have served, and continue to serve, in the Royal Air Force.

We do this by providing financial and practical support to all members of the RAF family in need. That means we help those who have served in any rank, in any role, at any time – from the 1920s and 30s through World War Two, National Service and the Cold War, right up to those serving today, in Afghanistan and elsewhere. We also offer support to the spouses and partners of those who've served.

We are here to help with a whole range of issues: from childcare and relationship difficulties to injury and disability, and from financial hardship and debt to illness and bereavement.

This November, I would urge any of your readers who think they might be eligible for our assistance, or who know someone in need of support, to contact the RAF Benevolent Fund.

You can do this by calling our free support line on 0800 198 2400. To find out more about the charity's work, or to apply for support online, please visit www.rafbf.org.

Paul Hewson, RAF Benevolent Fund regional director, London, Home Counties and South

OPINION: STILL THE PICK OF ENGLAND

Recent stories relating to Kent's demise as the Garden of England are actually wide of the mark as **PAT CRAWFORD**, of Hadlow College, is keen to point out

CHALLENGES to Kent's status as the Garden of England are nothing new. In 2006, a TV poll gave the title to North Yorkshire as 'the most beautiful county'. Well – no-one would deny the beauty of Yorkshire, but 'garden' of England? Never.

The title isn't simply based on 'beauty' – it is directly related to what we grow and the food we produce. And the latest threat to the title is pertinent because it relates to a recent report stating that Kent is in danger of losing its orchards.

In fact, the situation is rather bright and optimism is actually running high among the county's top fruit (apples, pears and other fruit that grows on trees) growers.

Charles Tassell, current county chairman of the National Farmers' Union and a fruit grower himself, takes a very positive view.

"Apple growing has become one of the most capital intensive sectors within farming in the UK," he said.

"Farmers are making investments that represent many times the value of the land and as a result orchards are now producing yields and quality way beyond even the dreams of the last generation."

The latest statistics available from Defra place Kent ahead of the other English counties in relation to the quantities of apples produced.

Asked for his opinion, Adrian Barlow, vice-president of the Fresh Produce Consortium Council, referred to the decline in UK apple production during the final quarter of the last century

"In the last seven years, there has been a remarkable transformation. Huge investments have been made in new orchards. Production is increasing and the planting of new orchards has been accompanied by multi-million pound investments in new packhouses and storage facilities," he said.

Dr Theresa Huxley, fruit specialist for supermarket chain Sainsbury's, adds a further upbeat comment.

"We know customer preference is for UK-grown apples and pears during the British season and we really value our British growers," she said.

"For this reason, we have invested considerable time in working closely with both the growers and leading research institutes such as East Malling.

"We are determined to ensure that we have availability of good quality British fruit, both today and in the future."

On the basis that 'any publicity is good publicity', the latest challenge to our Garden of England status is actually doing the county's fruit growers a favour. It is drawing attention to the resurgence of apple growing while also focusing attention on the important contribution orchards make to our scenery.

Most of the Kent countryside is a managed environment – managed by farmers. Thus it stands to reason the more regional produce we put on out plates, the more we safeguard one of our most valuable assets – the title Garden of England and everything implicit within it.

Mark Lumsdon-Taylor, Hadlow College's finance director, adds a further point, one that has particular relevance during the current economic climate.

"Some 85 per cent of our county is designated 'rural'. In order to keep it that way, we need to support our farmers and growers. Doing so will help to generate employment within the rural sector and produce notable benefits for the county's economy as a whole."

And in this connection we should also consider the importance of tourism to the economy in terms of the total income we derive and the numbers of people employed in the industry.

There is no doubt the Garden of England status attracts visitors to the county, but perhaps we need to do more about rounding the circle up even further?

We can do this by making visitors aware of what we grow and encouraging them to choose hotels and restaurants whose menus focus on regionally sourced ingredients.

We should be selling 'the Kent experience' so that they all return home with baskets – or car boots – full of wonderful county-grown produce.

KOS media COMMENT

Remember heroes who fought for us

IT'S that time of year again when the nation joins together to remember those lost in conflict and the men and women on the frontline putting their lives at risk every day.

And as with every November, the public is urged to show its support for Remembrance Day by buying a poppy and wearing it with pride.

Whatever your views on war, it is a time when people should look back and remember what past generations did to ensure we have the freedoms we know today. And even if you are strongly opposed to the war in Afghanistan, it is vital to show support to the brave soldiers who are simply doing their job out there.

Without that support the Royal British Legion would be unable to offer vital help to veterans, wounded servicemen and women, ex-service personnel and bereaved families, spending millions on the welfare of those who really need it.

Remembrance is a time to honour the memory of those who have died and pay tribute to the living.

But what's important to remember is that while the charity's Poppy Appeal brings in millions of pounds during November, those affected by war are affected every day, not just during Remembrance week.

So pin on a poppy and wear it with pride, but remember not to forget.

A welcome change

IT'S good to see a hoodie being used to represent something other than terrible teens causing trouble in society, with Christian messages being emblazoned across the front.

Because let's be honest, not every baseball-cap wearing, pubescent boy is going to assault you in a dark alley.

Hopefully the hard work of Fidel Frimpong will show people that it is only a small minority intent on causing trouble and dragging the reputation of teenagers through the mud.

So good luck at the Radio 1 awards Fidel and carry on the good work.

Action needed on speed issue

If Ashford is any example, then KCC seem to be extraordinarily reluctant to introduce 20mph or speed-calming measures, anywhere; and not just outside schools.

I know from personal experience what it is like, as a pedestrian, to be hit by a car.

Some years ago when I was walking in a 30mph (residential zone, a route to school) I was hit by a car and knocked 25 metres – it was touch and go if I survived.

Since then virtually nothing has been done to improve safety in the road in question.

Kent Highways' ideas for speed restriction seem to be limited to at least 10mph higher than they should be. Apart from some locations where there have been high enough crash statistics for them to justify installing a safety camera, there seem to little logic as to where speed restrictions are applied.

Thousands of miles of narrow, undulating, rural roads go unrestricted. Safety and speed on rural roads and outside schools should be reviewed urgently.

Most rural roads do not have pavements or separate ways for cyclists which means they have no alternative but to use the road and be exposed to considerable danger.

This automatically classifies that road as 'shared-space'.

All vehicles using shared-space should be restricted to a maximum of 20mph. Casualties to pedestrians and cyclists in such situations are much higher than in a number of other countries for this reason.

Locally, every year or so, vehicle speed is checked by highway consultants on at least two A roads in the Ashford area, but although vehicles are known to travel at 50mph (residents will cite higher speeds) through residential areas, little or no notice of local concerns seems to be taken.

The whole Kent road signage and speed restriction system should be reviewed by people who understand what needs to be done.

Ted Prangnell, Kennington, Ashford

EU cousins a costly relation

We now have another example of bending the truth.

The following sentence is a quote from a BBC news report on November 6: "The Home Secretary, Theresa May, has pledged to crack down on immigration abuse in order to restore public confidence in the system."

How can she make that statement so soon after they have signed a trade agreement with India, which opens up our doors even wider?

This comes after David Cameron's confidence trick on us when he strode bravely out to 'persuade' the EU [unelected by us] to reduce their increased demand upon our money.

Incidentally, the increase he signed us up for is an eye-watering £900 million a year. We have to borrow in order to pay the 'bill' to Brussels.

How much longer will it take before this country wakes up and recognises the fact that we cannot afford to stay in this ghastly, undemocratic, expensive abuse of power.

June Moore, Tunbridge Wells

Time to chop woodland sale

Kent Green Party is very concerned by reports that forests in the UK may be sold off by the Government.

The UK is already distinguished by having far less woodland and forest cover than many other neighbouring European states.

My main objection to selling off forests is the fact this will likely lead to further habitat fragmentation, ie' species get trapped in smaller and smaller islands of vegetation. This inevitably leads to their extinction in the smaller fragments.

Kent Green Party has already resisted attempts to remove a quarter of Lyminge Forest for a 'holiday village'. We fear that selling off forests will lead to development proposals for leisure and housing.

Kent has a substantial area of woodland in the green belt near London. It has about 45.217 hectares of broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland and a further 3813 hectares of coniferous forest.

We note the Government has rushed to calm down opposition to the sell-off, by offering 'consultation'.

However, we also note the Government seems intent on selling nature reserves and that 25 leading conservation organisations have already condemned this policy.

There are even suggestions the Government is trying to 'dump' nature reserves on these groups without funding.

Kent Green Party believes that protecting and improving forests, including realising the potential of fast-growing tree species for energy and creating low-impact tourism schemes, will need Government support. We call upon everyone who values their local environment to write to their MPs condemning these coalition policies.

Dr Geoff Meaden, Kent Green Party

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

Including family announcements in partnership with the Kent registration service

To register Births, Marriages and Deaths contact the Kent registration service on 0845 824 7400
For advertising announcement enquiries telephone Kent on Sunday on 01303 817150

BIRTHS

ADAMS
Sophie and Martin of Margate are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful baby daughter Gracie Louise Shirley Adams, born on 26th October 2010 at QEQM Hospital weighing 5lb 15oz. Mummy and Daddy's special little angel.

BALLARD / KEY
Isla Phoebe Ballard born on 24th October 2010 weighing 8lbs 2oz. Daughter to Georgina and Joseph of Maidstone.

BARRETT
Mason Barrett born on 16th October 2010, weighing 5lbs 12ozs. Mummy and Daddy's special little angel and a little brother to Cammay.

BREWSTER
Naomi and Peter of Margate are delighted to announce the birth of their son Zacoiya Philip Brewster, born on 21st October 2010 at QEQM Hospital weighing 6lb 5oz. Mummy and Daddy's special little angel.

CATLING
Ioan William Paul Catling born on 23rd October 2010, weighing 8lb 5oz. Son to Paul and Kelly Catling in Maidstone.

COUSINS
Sarah and Paul are proud to announce the birth of their son Stanley George on Monday 25th October 2010.

DERBYSHIRE
Sarah and Craig are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful baby daughter Isla Laura Derbyshire, born on 27th October 2010 at QEQM Hospital weighing 7lb 10oz. Mummy and Daddy's special little angel.

GHALE
Joshua Ghale born on 9th October 2010, weighing 4.04kg. Son to Suman and Lina Ghale in Maidstone.

HANNIGAN
Aaron Nathen born on 26th October 2010, weighing 9lbs 5ozs. Son to Gary and Stacey Hannigan. Little brother for Reece and Aiden. Born in Ashford.

HART
Sean and Patsy Hart are delighted to announce the arrival of their beautiful son Jasper Seymour on 25th October 2010. Beloved grandson of John and Ann Hart and Ian and Jenny Ellacott.

HEMMINGS
Jennifer and John of Margate are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Erin Vee Hemmings, born on 23rd October 2010 at mum and dad's house, weighing 8lb 4oz.

MANSFIELD
Annalee and Alan of Ramsgate are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Macie May Lubi Mansfield, born on 23rd October 2010 weighing 7lb 12oz. Our most beautiful and precious daughter.

NEWNHAM
Lou and Joanne celebrate the birth of their twins Ronnie and Louisa on 26th October 2010.

PILKINGTON / FITZPATRICK
Maisie Ellen Fitzpatrick born on 13th October 2010 weighing 7lbs 6oz. Daughter to Aidan and Samantha and sister to Molly. Our second miracle that we will love and cherish forever.

SCATTERGOOD
Karen and John of Ramsgate are delighted to announce the birth of their son Harry Scattergood, born on 22nd October 2010 at QEQM, weighing 9lb 3oz. Mummy and Daddy's special little angel.

STANDEN
Nick and Charlotte from Sandwich are delighted to announce the birth of Edward Adrian Phillips-Adcock, born on the 19th September 2010. A little brother for Thomas, Henry, Oliver, Emily and Sammy.

WEBSTER
Jade and Lee Webster celebrate the birth of their son Bailee Edward Webster on the 1st November 2010 at 7.03am weighing 7lb 10ozs.

YOUNG
Jack William born on the 20th October 2010 weighing 8lbs 15ozs. Son to Dorian Young and Emma Kingman.

DEATHS

CLARKE
Paul Harry Clarke, beloved husband of Dawn, father of Stephen and Nicola and grandfather of Charlie and Matthew. Passed away aged 66 on 1st November 2010. Funeral service will take place on Monday 15th November at Vinters Park Crematorium at 1.15pm. Any queries or flowers to be directed to Pickard and Beale Funeral Services, Brewer Street, Maidstone.

LEE - DELISLE
Dearly beloved husband, father and grandfather.

MARTIN
Cleo Revina Martin – 7th July 1922 to 1st November 2010. Passed away in hospital. Loving mum to Greta, nan and great nan. Reunited with husband Joe and son Stefan. R.I.P. Mum. Family flowers only, donations if you wish to NSPCC, c/o Palmers, Hardres Street, Ramsgate.

SAVAGE
Jessie Ellen Savage, 05.12.1919 - 07.11.2010, after a short illness died peacefully in her sleep. Much loved by all her family, Jim, Christine, Hugh, Gayle, James, Peter and Reuben.

TURNER
Betty Irene Turner passed away peacefully on 30th October 2010. Funeral at 2.30pm on 17th November 2010 at St George's Church, Wrotham, Kent. For further information contact Pickard and Beale Funeral Directors.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25

Tories' promises reduced to ashes

Bonfire night this year really was one to remember.

It was just six months from the date of the general election and yet the skies across the country were lit up by the burning effigies of Messers Clegg and Cameron and their litany of broken promises.

Up in smoke went their pledges to fight rises in tuition fees or maintain child benefit for all; reduced to ashes were the remnants of manifestos committed to protecting the poor the disabled and pensioners; bang and then silent went the roar of our Armed Forces as troop numbers were cut tanks, Harriers and destroyers decommissioned and the Ark Royal scuttled to avenge Trafalgar and secure an alliance with the French.

Star bursts light up the sky to herald the 36 per cent increase in overseas aid and our increased contributions to the European Union budget while the homeless looked on in shock and awe at a 50 per cent cut in the housing budget and the ethnic cleansing of Tory suburbs.

Damp squibs flew every which way as one minute George Osborne promised economic salvation, and then in the next the Institute for Fiscal Studies exposed his budget as an unmitigated attack on the poor, while others predicted 1.6 million jobs would be sacrificed in the fallout.

In Parliament, as the coalition stuffed the benches in the Lords with their own supporters, the ghosts of Guy Fawkes and Al Qaeda wandered the dungeons, undetected by the police and our security services more preoccupied with their redundancy notices and loss of pension rights than protecting the very politicians who promised them so much so little time ago.

Perhaps not quite the Bonfire of the Vanities a betrayed electorate deserved, but nevertheless a good rehearsal for the next one in another six months' time when the electorate across Shepway will surely show councillors Bliss and Beaumont and their motley crew of latter martyrs that not even the Big Society's volunteer fire brigade will save their pants catching fire – let alone their council seats going up in flames.

Donald Worsley, Folkestone
Shepway Labour Party

Cameron offering NuLabour answer

I totally agree with RE Tucker regarding our dishonourable MPs (KoS 7/11).

The Punch and Judy show at PMQs on a Wednesday is continuing, but with the roles reversed and Cameron now refusing to answer the questions he once accused Brown of not answering.

The many emails I sent to Mr Cameron and his shadow cabinet before the election were totally ignored, showing the Tories were to continue the NuLabour ignorance of voters wishes and concerns.

They have since shown they are to continue to proceed with the many failures of NuLabour, despite promises to the contrary while electioneering.

No surprises there then.

Mr Cameron makes noises about the many problems caused by EU regulations, such as the cursed 'human rights' which ensures mostly only criminals and terrorists have a say, yet he hasn't the guts to stand up for the people who pay the price for all this nonsense – not only in monetary, but also human terms.

It's time voters realised the 'Buggins' Turn' system doesn't work, and voted for any party other than the main established parties, who assume a 'divine right' to rule.

These enemies of true democracy should be consigned to the dustbin of history. Democracy is supposed to be 'Government by the will of the people', not by party dogma.

Phil Granger, West Malling

KOS Reader Holidays

KOS 45

Bosworth Hall Hotel & pool
Pool & Gym available at a £5 supplement for the weekend

99p Bar Carry on New Year Parties

Bosworth Hall Hotel, Leicestershire - over 40s only

Arrive Fridays: January 7 & 14, 2011

Join us for a party that extends the New Year celebrations at a price that's distinctly special. Our 2-night party break includes hotel accommodation, breakfast and dinner each day, entertainment and a 99p bar both evenings. Bosworth Hall is a super country house hotel set in landscaped grounds in the village of Market Bosworth - in the heart of England.

PRICE INCLUDES:

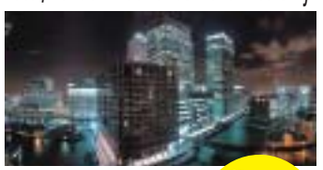
- **99P DRINKS** from 5pm to 11pm both nights. Drinks include house beers & spirits, wine by the glass
- Entertainment
- 2 dinners and 2 breakfasts
- 2 nights sharing a twin or double-bedded en-suite room

SELF-DRIVE 2 NIGHTS ONLY £99pp Quote CB1

Carry on New Year Party

London International Hotel, London Docklands - over 40s only

January 2 to 4, 2011



PRICE INCLUDES:

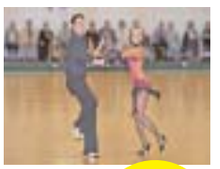
- Entertainment both nights
- **99P DRINKS** from 7pm to 11pm both nights. Drinks include house beers & spirits, wine by the glass
- 2 dinners and 2 breakfasts
- 2 nights sharing a twin or double-bedded en-suite room

SELF-DRIVE 2 NIGHTS £119pp Quote CL1

Come Dancing Party

Warner Bembridge Coast, Isle of Wight - over 40s only

January 14 to 17, 2011



PRICE INCLUDES:

- Dance tuition, social dancing and a Grand Ball
- Variety entertainment
- 3 nights en-suite Ambassador Room
- 3 dinners and 3 breakfasts
- Leisure facilities: Indoor pool & sauna
- Return car ferry
- **FREE DRINKS** from 3.30pm to 11pm on Friday and 12noon to 11pm on Saturday & Sunday. Drinks include house beers & spirits, house wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers, tea & coffee

SELF-DRIVE 3 NIGHTS DRINKS-INCLUSIVE £259pp Quote WB1

Carry on New Year Party

Warner Sinah Warren, Hayling Island - over 40s only

SELF-DRIVE 3 NIGHTS DRINKS-INCLUSIVE £229pp Quote WS1

January 7 to 10, 2011

Extend the New Year celebrations and take advantage of our super money-saving offer. Our 3-night New Year party break includes hotel accommodation, breakfast and dinner each day, entertainment with special guests the Dagenham Girl Pipers and a Free bar every evening. Sinah Warren is a luxury hotel by the sea on Hayling Island - just along the south coast from Portsmouth.

PRICE INCLUDES:

- **FREE DRINKS** from 3.30pm to 11pm on Friday and 12 noon to 11pm on Saturday & Sunday. Drinks include house beers & spirits, house wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers, tea & coffee
- Nightly entertainment - special guests: the Dagenham Girl Pipers
- 3 nights en-suite Ambassador Room
- 3 dinners and 3 breakfasts
- Leisure facilities: Indoor pool & sauna

Winter Warmer Party

Warner Bembridge Coast, Isle of Wight - over 40s only

January 14 to 17, 2011

PRICE INCLUDES:

- Entertainment every night
- 3 nights en-suite Ambassador room
- 3 dinners and 3 breakfasts
- Leisure facilities: Indoor pool & sauna
- Return car ferry
- **FREE DRINKS** from 3.30pm to 11pm on Friday and 12noon to 11pm on Saturday & Sunday. Drinks include house beers & spirits, house wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers, tea & coffee

SELF-DRIVE 3 NIGHTS DRINKS-INCLUSIVE £229pp Quote WB1

Suffolk Twixmas

Warner Corton, nr Great Yarmouth - over 21s only

December 27 to 30, 2010

Get away from the stress of the festive season with a great-value break at Warner Corton, on the Suffolk coast near Great Yarmouth.

PRICE INCLUDES:

- Entertainment every night
- 3 nights en-suite chalet accommodation
- 3 dinners and 3 breakfasts
- Leisure facilities: Indoor pool & sauna

SELF-DRIVE 3 NIGHTS £159pp Quote CO12-3

Christmas Party Break

Warner Lakeside, Hayling Island - over 21s only

December 17 to 20, 2010

PRICE INCLUDES:

- Entertainment every night
- 3 nights en-suite chalet accommodation
- 3 dinners and 3 breakfasts
- Leisure facilities: Indoor pool & sauna
- **FREE DRINKS** from 6pm to 11pm every evening. Drinks include house beers & spirits, house wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers, tea & coffee

SELF-DRIVE 3 NIGHTS DRINKS-INCLUSIVE £199pp Quote LK12

Mamma Mia Party

Warner Bembridge Coast, Isle of Wight - over 50s only

February 25 to 28, 2011

PRICE INCLUDES:

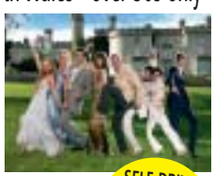
- Entertainment featuring a Mamma Mia movie screening, Abba tribute band in concert & more
- 3 nights en-suite Ambassador Room
- 3 dinners and 3 breakfasts
- Leisure facilities: Indoor pool & sauna
- Return car ferry
- **FREE DRINKS** from 3.30pm to 11pm on Friday and 12noon to 11pm on Saturday & Sunday. Drinks include house beers & spirits, house wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers, tea & coffee

SELF-DRIVE 3 NIGHTS DRINKS-INCLUSIVE £239pp Quote MW2

Mamma Mia Spring Party

Warner Bodelwyddan Castle, North Wales - over 50s only

March 25 to 28, 2011



PRICE INCLUDES:

- Entertainment featuring a Mamma Mia movie screening, Abba tribute band in concert & more
- 3 nights en-suite Ambassador Room
- 3 dinners and 3 breakfasts
- Leisure facilities: Indoor pool & sauna
- **FREE DRINKS** from 6pm to 11pm every night - house beers & spirits, house wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers, tea & coffee

SELF-DRIVE 3 NIGHTS DRINKS-INCLUSIVE £299pp Quote BC3

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Drummers Clash in

ROCK star Topper Headon is continuing his successful music scholarship scheme for a second year at Canterbury Christ Church University.

The Clash drummer, who lives in River, near Dover, will provide £4,000 toward tuition fees of four students.

Headon said: "This time I want to stay more involved with the drummers and come to see them throughout the year.

"It's a Clash thing to do. The Clash were about changing things, about contributing and making a difference."

CHIPPING IN: Carpenters are off to Kenya

African adventure

KENYA will be the destination for a group of carpentry students hoping to make a difference in the East African country.

In May next year, young chippies from MidKent College will head out to help build homes for displaced families and carry out repairs at local schools.

Every student signed up to the project must first raise £1,200 in sponsorship.

Businesses wishing to offer financial help or to donate tools and equipment can email dan.hodges@midkent.ac.uk.

Law fair a success

BUDDING solicitors had the chance to quiz the professionals during the University of Kent's annual law fair.

Representatives from a range of local, national and international firms attended the event, which was hosted by the Kent Student Law Society at the university's Canterbury campus.

Organiser Rose Sheppard said: "I was overwhelmed by the turnout by both the companies and the students."

Project Search finds new way to offer work skills

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

LEARNING disabilities are proving no barrier for people signed up to a new training scheme being piloted in Kent.

Project Search is aimed at improving the life prospects of those involved in the programme by providing work-based training alongside classroom sessions.

It is being led in Kent by East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust, which has co-ordinated internships at Thanet College in Broadstairs; the Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Hospital in Margate; and at the county-wide Kent Supported Employment.

"Project Search is a genuine example of a partnership where people with learning disabilities have the opportunity of gaining real skills that employers value," said Cllr Graham Gibbens, Kent County Council cabinet member for adult social services.

CHANCE: Project Search aims to give people with learning difficulties the chance to work

"Kent is very proud of the work of QEQM Hospital, Thanet College and Kent Supported Employment as this will ensure young people with learning disabilities get the right education to get real jobs and real lives."

Kent was one of just 14 places in the UK selected to take part in the Project Search pilot.

Hospital staff are acting as mentors to the students, who it is hoped will enter the jobs market with competitive skills and continued support as well as college qualifications.

"We take our responsibilities for all those we serve in our local communities seriously," said Peter Murphy, the foundation trust's director of corporate affairs.

"This new initiative means we are helping and supporting a group in the community for whom opportunities can be limited.

"We are so pleased these individuals have joined us and they are proving to be an asset to the trust.

"As well as benefiting the trust and its work, these new individuals are learning new skills and acquiring experiences which will enable them to compete better in the jobs market."

• ***Email kathryn.melling@kent.gov.uk or twyla.mart@ekht.nhs.uk for more information about Project Search in Kent.***

Teens overcome difficulties to earn BTEC

VULNERABLE youngsters are celebrating the completion of a BTEC course provided by Kent Fire and Rescue Service.

The five pupils from Bower Grove School in Maidstone are among the first to study for the Level 2 diploma in fire and rescue service in the community, which covers areas including arson attacks and road accidents.

Held over six weeks, the course is targeted at 14 to 16-year-olds suffering from low self-esteem, or learning or behavioural difficulties.

Youth engagement team supervisor Ian Grieves said: "The course provides a vocational learning opportunity to a diverse range of young people who may struggle to achieve academic success within traditional styles of learning.

"By working away from the classroom environment and interacting with professional firefighters and instructors, students engage and develop a positive approach to learning which builds their self-esteem and self-confidence.

"The course also helps to raise their sense of personal responsibility and improve social awareness of community issues such as fire prevention and the consequences of arson."

The first five pupils enrolled were presented with their certificates at Kent Fire's headquarters in Tovil, near Maidstone, on Wednesday.

Other centres offering the diploma include Sittingbourne Community College, Canterbury High School and Pent Valley School, Folkestone.

Mr Grieves said: "This is a significant achievement for this vulnerable group of young people...

"Their success is something they should be extremely proud of."

Pull out your Review section opposite to read JobsforKent.co.uk, starting on page 69

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TO ADVERTISE: TELEPHONE: **01303 817040** | FAX: **01303 817004** | EMAIL: **appointments@kosmedia.co.uk**

- Accountancy
- Administration, Secretarial, PA
- Agriculture, Forestry, Environment
- Art and Design
- Catering, Hospitality
- Construction, Architecture, Surveyors
- Customer Service, Call Centre
- Domestic
- Education, Teacher, School
- Engineering, Manufacturing, Utilities
- Estate Agency, Property
- Graduate, Trainees
- Health and Safety, Security, Defence
- HR, Recruitment
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- IT, Internet, Telecoms
- Insurance, Banking, Finance
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- Leisure, Tourism, Travel
- Management Consultancy
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- PR, Media, Journalism
- Public Sector, Social Services
- Retail, Wholesale, Sales
- Scientific and Pharmaceutical, Research
- Transport, Logistics, Aviation

CPI Mackays the UK's leading book producer requires an experienced

Production Scheduler to join the team at the factory based in Lordswood Chatham.

The successful candidate will be responsible for creating and implementing a production plan to ensure the delivery requirements of our customers are met.

Relevant skills and a proven track record in scheduling multiple machines and processes in a busy environment are essential.

An attractive package is available to excellent candidates with a proven ability to multi-task and meet deadlines in a fast paced modern Manufacturing environment.

Send CV's and information on current remuneration to Delroy Simmons, Production Manager, CPI Mackays, Badger Road, Lordswood, Chatham, Kent ME5 8TD by the **26th November 2010**.

Transport Clerk required

Must be computer literate
Mon-Fri 7am-3pm
Temp to Perm
Based in Ashford
Please call Sarah on
01622 695555

To advertise in this section
01303 817040

WELLNESS COACHES REQUIRED

We are a Health & Nutrition company looking for serious people who want to earn £500-£1000+ per month full/part-time working from home.

Full training and support available.
01622 671716

S. Simmonds & Son Ltd
require a
Part-Time Manager
for the School Uniform shop
at Holmewood House School, Langton Green
4.5 hours per week, extra in school holidays.
Apply to: Marion West, 64 Calverley Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN1 2UG
01892 510123
marion@simmonds-ltd.com

Men's Hairstylist

required for Alan Jones Men's Grooming of Sevenoaks

Wage or chair rental
Must have experience
Call Alan
01732 460019

Extrastaff are recruiting for 7.5T Multi-Drop Drivers

All must have digital taco and multi-drop experience.
Based in Aylesford, Maidstone.
Please call Sarah on 01622 695555

Part time Administrator Business Support Person

Folkestone based (Shearway Business Park) Management consultancy seeks part time administrator/business support person to work 8-12 days per month on a flexible basis. Main tasks will be to provide marketing and operations support. Must have good organisational and computer skills and be a self starter.

Position available immediately.
Please send CV to Robert Stearn at
email: r.stearn@erauk.net

Sales Person and Administrator
required to work in busy Insurance Agency

Dealing with customers, selling, processing changes and giving FSA regulated advice.
Good interpersonal skills and computer proficiency required but full training will be given.
Salary commensurate with experience.
Please send CV to: whitfield@nfumutual.co.uk
Or send to: Mr M C Welham,
Unit 9, Whitfield Court, Whitecliffs Business Park, Whitstable, Dover, Kent CT16 3PX

PURCHASING AND STOCK CONTROL PERSON

We are currently looking to recruit a Purchasing and Stock Control Processor here at our busy factory in Ramsgate.

The successful candidate would need to have good communication and I.T skills, work accurately at all times, be able to meet deadlines and work well as part of a team.

Previous experience desirable but not essential. Starting salary from around £14,000 dependant on experience.

Please apply to Ray Kemp, Piper Double Glazing Limited, 140 Newington Road, Ramsgate, Kent, CT12 6PP or e-mail ray.kemp@piperwindows.co.uk.
Closing date for applications is Friday 12 November 2010, no agencies.
We are an Equal Opportunities Employer.

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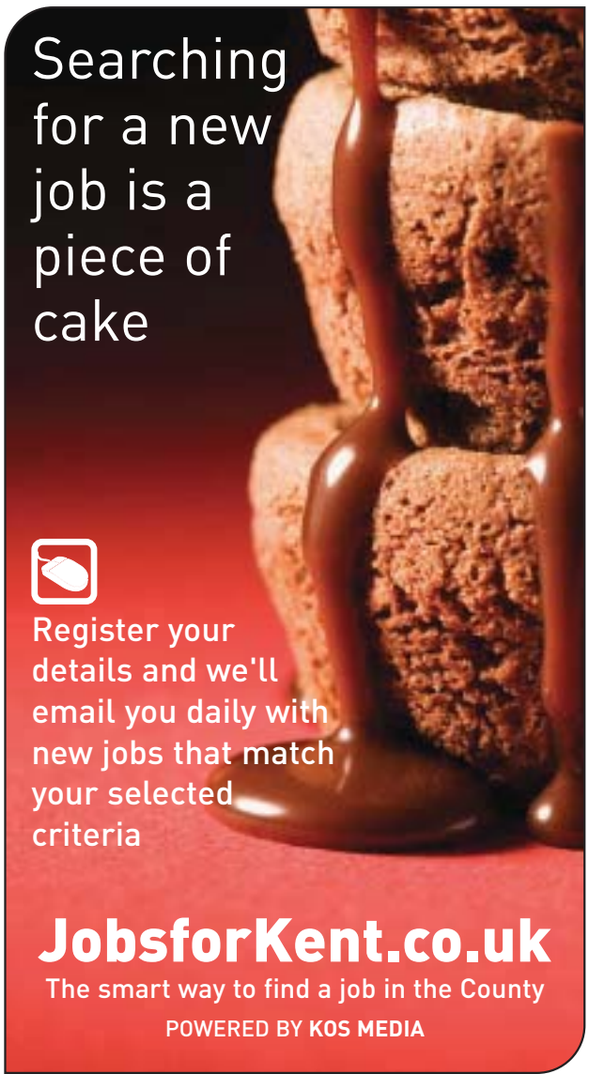

SALES PERSON
required to work in small but busy office

Must be computer literate and have confidence with telesales.
You will need to be enthusiastic and happy to carry out a range of tasks.
You will be working along side a sales team.
The position is full time and you maybe required to work away for one week per year.

Please send CV to: Alan Deacon
HCP Ltd, Mountfield House, Mountfield Ind. Estate
New Romney, Kent. TN28 8LH
Or e-mail sales@hcp-ltd.com

Territory Sales Manager and Sales Executives
required for growing business to business publisher

Due to continued expansion we are looking for sales people with a strong background in display media sales.
You will have at least 5 years experience and be able to work with clients at management and board level.
Salary package negotiable, dependant on experience.
Territory Sales Manager £35k to £45k plus commission
Sales Executive £25k to £30k plus commission
Both positions will be based in Groombridge, Kent in our beautiful rural environment.
Email with your CV to alan@ghpublishing.co.uk
or call 01892 861993

Helpdesk Analyst Vacancy
Sittingbourne
Kent

St Regis Paper Company is the largest manufacturer and recycler of paper in the UK. We currently have a vacancy for a Helpdesk Analyst, based at our Divisional Head Quarters in Sittingbourne, Kent.

The main duties of the post will involve: receiving and logging incoming calls, diagnosing and resolving faults remotely, ensuring calls are satisfactorily resolved within acceptable timescales, producing management reports on Helpdesk statistics and assisting with documentation of Helpdesk procedures and tasks.

The ideal candidate will possess; excellent customer service skills, a professional telephone manner with an outgoing personality, an appetite to learn new skills and resolve customer's problems. Although not essential, previous experience in a customer facing role would be desirable.

Systems to be supported include; Windows operating systems, AS400 operations and bespoke applications, Lotus Notes, Microsoft products and a Helpdesk system. Whilst experience of these systems would be distinct advantage training will be given to the right candidate.

Salary range depending on experience £16 - 20,000 pa
Closing date for application strictly 18th November 2010
Successful applicants only will be contacted to attend a 1st Interview after week commencing 22nd November 2010.
Apply in writing with current CV to:

Ms Kerry Lillico
St Regis Paper Co Ltd IT Dept
Unit 2 Oaklands Court, Tiverton Way
Tiverton, Devon, EX16 6TG

ST REGIS

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REGISTERED NURSE
Day or Night duty to join us in caring for Adults with a physical disability.
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Would you like to be a part of an exciting and growing team developing our portfolio across Kent's towns and districts?

Have you got innovative ideas?

Media Sales Executives (Field Based)

We have an opportunity for highly motivated people to create and sell multi-media solutions in our market-leading portfolio of newspapers and magazines. We're not looking for people to just take orders; we're looking for people who can provide first class solutions for our customers. We believe good customer service is at the heart of our success and we want to recruit people who can develop excellent business relationships and present effective and innovative ideas that will provide real value and response for our customers.

Senior B2B Sales Professionals

To play a key role in developing new business and maintaining existing relationships. The ideal candidate should be comfortable with all stages of account management and should be proficient at sourcing leads, creating initial contact, delivering presentations, writing proposals, negotiating and closing.
The person we are seeking will be an energetic and enthusiastic individual with good interpersonal skills, strong relationship-building capability and have excellent verbal and written communication ability. They will need to demonstrate a proven sales track record, preferably from within B2B media, will have a good understanding of the benefits of printed, online and live media and ideally have knowledge of the Kent marketplace.

Telephone Sales Executive

Are you confident, competitive, determined and hard working? Do you enjoy a challenge and have a 'can do' attitude?
We are looking to recruit highly driven, experienced telesales professionals able to work under pressure to deadline and target, in our fast-paced advertising department.

Are you Sport mad?

Commercial Sales Manager (Sports Products)

Playing the key role in selling advertising and sponsorship across our new sports products is something that an all-round sports enthusiast would revel in. Candidates will possess a proven track record in media sales, combining excellent communication and presentation skills, a great business acumen, tenacity, and the ability to build positive business relationships.
Ultimately, we need an articulate and assured sales person with a structured sales technique, a positive manner and passion for all things sport.

Events and Exhibitions Executive

You will play the key role in selling and coordinating our groups events, exhibitions and sponsorship across our market-leading portfolio of newspapers, magazines, show guides, websites and mobile products.

Reporters

We are looking for NCTJ-trained reporters to join our busy newsroom. Candidates must be genuine all-rounders who are able to write across the various sections of our newspapers and websites, from news to features and leisure.
You will be a self-starter bursting with ideas who is able to adapt their writing style to meet the needs of a variety of publications.

Full-time Creative Personal Assistant
Reporting to the managing director and editorial director

The successful applicant will need to demonstrate they have the ability to not only produce excellent reports and run senior directors' diaries, but also have writing skills that would not be out of place in our newsroom. You will be producing monthly management reports and minutes of board meetings as well as preparing copy for marketing, and on occasions supplying well written PR for our websites, newspapers and magazines as well as the wider world of media. This position also demands absolute discretion as the business develops in the coming years.
The successful applicant must also have the ability to work to tight deadlines and be flexible when work demands dictate.
Some knowledge of media, marketing or PR would be advantageous.

We offer an excellent basic salary plus generous bonus scheme, ongoing training and career development, five weeks' annual leave, contributory pension and life assurance scheme (after qualifying period) and all the benefits of working for a large media organisation.

Please apply with your CV and covering letter in the first instance to:
sandra.waghorn@kosmedia.co.uk
or in writing to Sandra Waghorn,
ARCHANT KOS MEDIA,
Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth,
Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS

About us

KOS Media publishes the UK award-winning Kent on Sunday newspaper and a series of free weekly newspapers, magazines and associated websites and mobile products.

The company produces kentnews.co.uk and yourkentTV, an internet-based TV service providing regional and local news, business and sport, plus websites for jobs, property and motors.

KOS Media's newspapers have won more than 10 national awards, including UK Regional Newspaper of the Year, and UK Free Weekly Newspaper of the Year six times.

In June, 2010, media group Archant purchased KOS Media.

Archant is the UK's largest independently owned regional media business

It is a community media company active in the fields of regional newspaper and magazine publishing, contract printing and internet communications. All its titles serve clearly defined communities, based around locations or interest groups.

Archant can trace its roots back more than 160 years and today remains one of the country's largest independent media businesses. As a private company it employs 1,850 people right across England. It has an annual turnover of £142 million.

The newspaper division, Archant Regional, produces four daily regional newspapers and around 60 weekly titles with a combined circulation of 2.25 million copies every week. It is a UK top six regional newspaper publisher. It also publishes many of the group's 180 websites and a number of its magazines.

Archant also owns three magazine companies, which between them produce around 80 magazines.

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The Westlands School

Academies Trust Business Manager

KCC Pay Band 13 £47,000 - £53,956

Required for March 2011

An opportunity has arisen to appoint a suitably qualified Business Manager to oversee the budget of The Westlands Primary and Westlands Secondary Schools. As a member of the Leadership Group, the successful candidate will be expected to use their professional expertise and experience to inform strategic planning and ensure that financial resources are deployed and managed effectively.

For further information or for a preliminary discussion, please contact the Executive Headteacher on 07956 076739 or by email: jwh@westlands.kent.sch.uk Recruitment packs are available from Westlands Academies Trust or online.

Closing date, Friday 26 November 2010

Westlands Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced CRB check.

Westlands Avenue, Sittingbourne,
Kent ME10 1PF
www.westlands.kent.sch.uk

Tel: 01795 477475 Fax: 01795 479461
Email: swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk
Executive Headteacher:
J Whitcombe MA

RECEPTIONIST/INNOVATION UNDERSTANDING AND SKILLS (IUS) SECRETARY REQUIRED – Maternity Cover

Hours: 37 hours a week, flexible to be worked between 8am - 4.30pm, term-time plus 15 days
Salary: Kent Scheme 3 (£14,099 – £15,984) pro rata per annum
Start Date: 5th January 2011

We are looking for a reliable, well organised individual to cover maternity leave. The ideal candidate should be happy to work on their own and as part of a team. Good interpersonal skills are essential as they will be the first point of contact for all visitors to the school.

A confident telephone manner is important along with the ability to multi-task and prioritise. They should have experience in all aspects of office work, and be competent in using Microsoft Office. Knowledge of the school software system SIMS would be an advantage.

Offer of appointment is subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure. This school is committed to recruiting with care and safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

For more information contact:
Miss S Spratley, Pent Valley Technology College,
Surrenden Road, Folkestone, Kent. CT19 4ED.
Email: samantha.spratley@pent-valley.kent.sch.uk
Tel: 01303 277161 ext 2218 Fax: 01303 279342

Closing Date: Friday 19th November 2010

Interviews: Friday 26th November 2010

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"This is an Outstanding School" Ofsted 2010

A BUSINESS AND ENTERPRISE COLLEGE
INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE WORLD SCHOOL

Astor Avenue, Dover, Kent CT17 0DQ
Tel 01304 206117 Fax 01304 206074
Headteacher Dr Richard Moxham BA PhD NPQH
www.dovergramboys.kent.sch.uk

Professeur de Français
MPS
(janvier-août 2011)

(La capacité d'enseigner une deuxième langue vivante et/ou le latin sera avantageuse.)

Un poste de professeur est devenu libre dans une section de langues dynamique et innovante. Nous proposons de nombreuses langues vivantes et classiques à nos élèves de 6e à Terminale, avec choix de filières en Second Cycle entre A-Level et le Baccalauréat International. La section prend une approche active envers l'apprentissage, et notre programme donne à certains groupes de 5e et de 4e la possibilité de poursuivre leurs études de Sciences Humaines en langue française.

Le 'DGSB' est un collège-lycée qui aborde une phase passionnante de son développement. Il a été désigné comme Outstanding par OFSTED en 2010.

La compétence d'enseigner le français à tous les niveaux secondaires, y compris le Sixth Form, est un pré-requis de ce poste. Se recommandera encore plus fortement un(e) candidat(e) pouvant y ajouter l'enseignement soit de l'espagnol ou du latin en KS3, soit de l'allemand en KS4.

Nous envisageons dans un premier temps un contrat à durée fixe (janvier-août 2011), avec possibilité de permanence par la suite pour un(e) candidat(e) exceptionnel(le).

Pour poser votre candidature, veuillez contacter Sue Barham, Assistante au Proviseur, au 01304-206117. Votre dossier, qui devra nous parvenir le 22 novembre 2010 au plus tard, comportera une fiche de candidature et une lettre de motivation, ainsi que les coordonnées de deux personnes en mesure de fournir une reference professionnelle à votre égard. Les entretiens de recrutement auront lieu le vendredi 26 Novembre.

Dover Grammar School for Boys s'engage inconditionnellement à sauvegarder le bien-être de ses élèves. Ce poste entraînera un contrôle CRB augmenté

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

KOS MEDIA (PUBLISHING) LTD TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Advertisements will be accepted only on the express condition that the advertiser warrants that the advertisement does not in any way contravene any existing legislation and in particular the Trade and Description Act 1968 and the Consumer Credit Act 1974.
2. It is the responsibility of all advertisers to ensure that all advertising meets all forms of government legislation and KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (the "media owner") takes no responsibility for liability in errors and omissions to the content of our media.
3. All rates quoted are subject to VAT at the rate currently in force at the time the advertisement appears.
4. All rates within the annual advertising agreement will be rate protected for 12 months from the first date of publication under the signed agreement.
5. Any unsuitable material posted on any website belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the advertiser or any associated third party will be removed or refused. All passwords and security supplied to the advertiser by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in relation to the use of the posting of material via the media owner's online administration tool will be the responsibility of the advertiser. The advertiser indemnifies KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd against any damages as a result of misuse of these privileges by either the advertiser or any third party given password privileges by the advertiser.
6. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to change passwords intermittently to ensure the overall and ongoing security of its websites within the public domain.
7. Copyright and licenses for voice-over/music/photography or film for advertising promotions or otherwise within the various forms of media in print, online and moving film owned by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must have been sought, verified or paid for by the advertiser where applicable. Approval or permissions must have been given by any potential beneficial owner voice-over or music. The advertiser must be able to verify any statements or claims (promotional or otherwise) in relation to their products/services promoted within any of the media offerings belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd.
8. Where shrinkage of an advertisement occurs for whatever reason, the advertisement will be charged to the nearest full centimetre where it relates to the media owner's printed publications. This will NOT apply to full-page advertisements, which remain full pages even after shrinkage.
9. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to omit or refuse any advertisement/commercial/web content without notice or explanation. In these terms the word "advertiser" shall be construed to include any person or organisation placing an advertisement on behalf of another.
10. A guarantee of insertion cannot be given and the media owners shall not be liable for any loss or damage caused by any error inaccuracy within your marketing content. In no case shall the total liability of the media owner for any error or omission exceed the price charged by the media owners for that advertising.
11. No liability is accepted for any loss or damage alleged to have arisen through delay in forwarding replies to Box numbers, however caused, nor for the loss or damage to any artwork supplied.
12. Claims for any error or inaccuracy in your media messages with KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be made in writing to the accounts department within 10 days of publishing.
13. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions made on their websites by the advertiser.
14. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd has the right to cancel the advertiser's annual membership without notice should the advertiser deliberately publish out of date material or content on any of the media owner's online digital platforms. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd will seek to recover, in full, all outstanding invoices in relation to the signed annual membership as a result of the advertiser's negligence in this regard and reserves the right to claim damages for any potential vexatious action via the advertiser.
15. Advertisers are requested to check their advertisements after the first insertion. The media owner will not be responsible for any errors on subsequent insertions, which have not been advised to them in writing.
16. A minimum of one month's notice must be given in writing for any cancellation of the signed annual advertiser's agreement. Upon cancellation, all discounts from KOS Media's standard effective media advertising rate card (July 2008–June 2009) will be recalculated and adjusted accordingly in line with KOS Media's standard media rate card (effective July 2008–June 2009) and will reflect the revised length of commitment denoted by the advertiser's written cancellation. Any surcharges, refunds or costs in relation to the production of the advertiser's TV commercial for the commitment set out within the advertiser's agreement will be met in full by the advertiser as per KOS Media's standard media advertising rate card (July 2008–June 2009). Discounts will be reapplied and any refunds or surcharges will be paid by either party within 30 days of the advertiser's written cancellation. Any other advertising placed must give a minimum of seven days' written notice and any discounts given for series bookings will be forfeited by the advertiser upon cancellation.
17. Seasonal contracts, Your Professional classified advertisements or any uplift advertising within the annual contract with the advertiser will be invoiced in full - at rate card - on receipt of any written cancellation of this contract within the 12-months.
18. All uplift advertisements must be booked in at least three months in advance of publication and will be subject to availability. All dates booked will be on a first-come, first-served basis.
19. The advertiser must agree to the date and time of filming of any online TV advertising commercial supplied by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd within the advertiser's agreement, (Platinum, Gold, Silver standard of commercial). Should, for any reason, the advertiser not be available at the agreed time without giving sufficient notice (at least 48 hours), KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to charge for any further TV production at its standard published hourly rate should the advertiser still wish to use KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's production services to complete its TV commercial or photographic imagery included in the advertiser's agreement. The advertiser will approve and accept that there are only two choices of voice-over and music offered by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. Should an advertiser wish to use other voice-overs or non-copyright free music it is the responsibility of the advertiser to pay the PRS rights should they be required to do so. Any changes to or failure to approve the TV production by the deadlines agreed between both parties will result in KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd being given permission by the advertiser to replace the TV commercial with pictures or stills from a choice of photography supplied by the media owner until the advertiser can supply a TV commercial produced at their own cost and risk outside of this agreement. The advertiser also accepts and agrees that this action would not reduce the value or cost of their membership. Any cost of changes required to the TV commercial throughout the advertiser's agreement will be borne by the advertiser outside of this agreement.
20. Each advertiser accepts that their ranking and position within KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's search engine will be equal to those within their category (Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze, etc) other than they will be ranked based on the search engine criteria of optimisation within their level (Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze).
21. Any delivery claims made by the advertiser or discount vouchers published within the print or online media of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd and any action as a result of the public or otherwise is the sole responsibility of the advertiser. Any claims resulting from this via KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be met by the advertiser.
22. a. All credit accounts due for payment shall be notified to the Advertiser by the 30th day following the date of the invoice, time to be of the essence. All sums due to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring shall be paid in full, and the Advertiser shall have no right of set off in any circumstances.
    b. In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring by the due date, the media owner shall be entitled to suspend all further advertising until payment is received and/or repudiate the contract and make any surcharges for breaking the contract.
    c. In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the due date, the media owner reserves the right to charge interest on all overdue balances calculated on a daily basis at the rate of two per cent above the minimum lending rate of National Westminster Bank Plc from time to time in force.
    d. Not withstanding anything in these terms and conditions or implied to the contrary, in the event of the Advertiser ceasing to use the services of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (for whatever reason), the whole amount of monies due from the Advertiser to the date of cessation shall fall due for immediate payment.
    e. The Advertiser will be liable for all costs incurred by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in the recovery of debts not paid by the due date.
    f. Payment may be made by cheque, credit transfer, direct debit, cash and any major credit card.
23. Any discount which KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd may have agreed with the Advertiser shall be forfeited in the event of failure by the Advertiser to complete the contract or to meet the above credit terms.
24. Advertising Agency commission will be allowed to those advertisers recognised by the Newspaper Society, but shall not exceed ten per cent and will be subject to the terms of that recognition. This commission will not be allowed if the Advertising Agency fails to meet the terms.
25. All private advertisements and certain categories as laid down by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be prepaid.
26. The Advertiser agrees to indemnify KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the media owners or any of the companies within the KOS Media Group as the result of legal action or threatened legal action or threatened legal arising from the publication of any advertisement or advertising promotion.
27. An order for an advertisement shall amount to acceptance of these terms and conditions, and any condition placed on an order by an Advertiser shall be null and void in so far as it conflicts with them.
28. Copyright in advertisements produced wholly or partially by the media owners belong to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. Advertisers may not reproduce such advertisements without the media owner's written consent.

All terms and conditions stated above are in place to protect the advertiser, the media owner and the communities they serve within the public domain as well as the beneficial rights of individuals and organisations. KOS Media will endeavour to always act reasonably in applying its terms and conditions.

Effective from June 2008

Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR
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Email: info@kosmedia.co.uk

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Burgess Hodgson is a leading firm of Chartered Accountants and business advisors in the South East. The practice has developed a strong reputation for training, developing individuals across a range of disciplines. We are looking for a trainee to join our busy tax department and become an important part of the Burgess Hodgson team. Applicants should have good A Levels or be educated to degree level. They will be expected to learn both on the job and through official examinations, leading to an industry-recognised qualification. Salary is commensurate with experience. Closing date is 5th November 2010. Please apply in writing with CV to: Barry Ryan, Burgess Hodgson, Camburgh House 27 New Dover Road, Canterbury, CT1 3DN Or by email to: barry.ryan@burgesshodgson.co.ukl
To apply/more information:
Burgess Hodgson Chartered Accountants
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

SENIOR PAYROLL/ ACCOUNTS ASSISTANT

Broadstairs
Salary Dependant on Qualifications
To apply/more information:
Blaze Neon Ltd
sarahw@blazeneon.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Purchasing Manager

Ashford
Salary To be advised
To apply/more information:
Headley Brothers Limited
andy.owden@headley.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: KOS01

Administration, Secretarial, PA

Administrator

Folkestone
Salary TBC
To apply/more information:
DMS
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref:

Administrator and PA to Doctor

Canterbury
Salary 14k
To apply/more information:
Canterbury Health Practice
monique@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: PA Aug10

Receptionist / Customer Service

Canterbury
Salary 14k
To apply/more information:
Canterbury Health Practice
monique@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: Rec Aug10

Receptionist / Customer Service

Canterbury
Salary 14k
To apply/more information:
Canterbury Health Practice
monique@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: Rec Aug10

Administrator/ Business Support

Folkestone
Salary TBC
Part time Administrator/Business Support Person
Folkestone based (Shearway Business Park) Management Consultancy seeks part time administrator/business support person to work 8-12 days per month on a flexible basis. Main tasks will be to provide marketing and operations support. Must have good organisational and computer skills and be a self starter. Position available immediately. Please send CV to Robert Stearn at email: r.stearn@erauk.net
To apply/more information:
Expense Reduction Analysts
r.stearn@erauk.net
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Helpdesk Analyst

Sittingbourne
Salary £16,000 to £20,000 pa
To apply/more information:
St Regis Paper Company Ltd
vanessa.griggs@stregis.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Part Time Sales Coordinator

Maidstone outskirts
Salary c£8,000
To apply/more information:
Interpersonnel
jfk@interpersonnel.ltd.uk
Quoting Job Ref: 1711

Sales Person and Administrator

Whitfield, Dover
Salary To be advised
Sales Person and Administrator required to work in busy Insurance Agency Dealing with customers, selling, processing changes and giving FSA regulated advice. Good interpersonal skills and computer proficiency required but full training will be given. Salary commensurate with experience. Please send CV to: whitfield@nfumutual.co.uk Or send to: Mr M C Welham Unit 9 Whitfield Court Whiteclifs Business Park Whitstable Dover, Kent. CT16 3PX.
To apply/more information:
Mr M C Welham
Whitfield_Agency@nfumutual.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: KOS

Administration Assistant

Margate
Salary £14,074 - £16,032 pa pro rata 16 hours per week
To apply/more information:
Childrens Society
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: S01963/KOS

Purchasing Manager

Ashford
Salary To be advised
To apply/more information:
Headley Brothers Limited
andy.owden@headley.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: KOS01

Transport Clerk

Ashford
Salary TBC
Transport Clerk required Must be compueter literate Mon-Fri 7am-3pm Temp to Perm Based in Ashford Please call Sarah on 01622 695555.
To apply/more information:
Extrastaff Ltd
sarah.harbour@extrastaff.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Catering, Hospitality

Cook

Dover
Salary TBC
To apply/more information:
Select Healthcare - Victoria Lodge
riverlea@btconnect.com
Quoting Job Ref:

Chef's

Tunbridge Wells
Salary TBC
CHEF'S required Senior Chef de Partie level at The Beacon 1.5miles from Tunbridge Wells. Call Scott on 01892 524252.
To apply/more information:
Beacon (The)
beaconhotel@btopenworld.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Bakery Manager

Whitstable
Salary £16,000 - £25,000 pa
Bakery Manager For small wholesale bakery in Whitstable. Salary 16-25K, health insurance, profit share. Experience in food manufacture, bakery, IT skills and an interest in organic food required. For more information, Tel 01227 771 881 or email: mail@artisanbread-abo.co.uk
Our website: breadonline.co.uk
To apply/more information:
Artisan Bread Organic
mail@artisanbread-abo.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref:

Child Care

Foster Carers

Kent
Salary TBC
To apply/more information:
ISP Childcare
fostering.team@ispchildcare.org.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Senior Project Development Worker

Margate
Salary £26,309 - £29,969 pa
To apply/more information:
Childrens Society
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: Ref: S01962/KOS

Construction, Architecture, Surveyors

Cavity Wall Technician

Pembury
Salary Basic + excellent bonus scheme
Cosywall Insulation, Pembury require Cavity Wall Technician to operate in Tunbridge Wells and surrounding areas of Kent, Sussex and Surrey. Good customer skills and proven practical ability desirable. Basic + excellent bonus scheme, depending on experience. Apply by tel. 01892 825757 or e-mailing cv to jo@skinnerandreeves.com This position is permanent and offered by the Insulation division of Skinner & Reeves, established for over 50 years.
To apply/more information:
Skinner & Reeves
john@skinnerandreeves.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Domestic Insulation Surveyor

Pembury
Salary £20,000 + commission
Cosywall Insulation, Pembury require Domestic Insulation Surveyor who will be required to convert generated leads and carry out technical property surveys to evaluate the existing levels of insulation and advise on grants available. Basic £20,000 + commission covering Kent, Sussex and Surrey. Surveying equipment is provided but own car is required. Apply by tel. 01892 825757 or e-mailing cv to john@skinnerandreeves.com The position is permanent and offered by the Insulation division of Skinner & Reeves, established for over 50 years.
To apply/more information:
Skinner & Reeves
john@skinnerandreeves.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Customer Service, Call Centre

Helpdesk Analyst

Sittingbourne
Salary £16,000 to £20,000 pa
To apply/more information:
St Regis Paper Company Ltd
vanessa.griggs@stregis.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Part Time Sales Coordinator

Maidstone outskirts
Salary c£8,000
To apply/more information:
Interpersonnel
jfk@interpersonnel.ltd.uk
Quoting Job Ref: 1711

Sales Person

New Romney
Salary To Be Advised
SALES PERSON Required to work in small but busy office. Must be computer literate and have confidence with telesales. You will need to be enthusiastic and happy to carry out a range of tasks. You will be working along side a sales team. The position is full time and you maybe required to work away for 1 week per year. Please send CV to: Alan Deacon HCP Ltd, Mountfield House, Mountfield Ind. Estate, New Romney, Kent. TN28 8LH Or e-mail sales@hcp-ltd.com
To apply/more information:
HCP Limited
sue.king@hcp-ltd.com
Quoting Job Ref: KOS

Education, Teacher, School

SECOND DEPUTY HEAD OF CARE

Broadstairs
Salary £27,202
To apply/more information:
Stone Bay School
office@stone-bay.kent.sch.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Teacher of Mathematics (Part-time)

Aylesford School - Sports College
Salary Main Scale
From January 2011 until August 2011 Aylesford School - Sports College is an innovative forward looking Specialist Sports College. We have a strong community ethos where we put the learner at the heart of everything we do. At Aylesford School - Sports College we can offer you:- Outstanding facilities in all areas. A highly regarded CPD programme with personal professional pathways. A buzzing and vibrant staff who are friendly and keen to help one another. A forward looking curriculum with individualised pathways for students. We are looking for a committed professional who:- Can motivate students through the curriculum. Has the desire to make the difference. Is focussed on developing their career further. We are a National Challenge school which enables us to offer various government incentives for the right candidate. For an application pack please contact Miss Jill McKenna on 01622 717341 or email your request to jill.mckenna@aylesford.kent.sch.uk Please note that this School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.
To apply/more information:
Aylesford School - Sports College
jill.mckenna@aylesford.kent.sch.uk
Quoting Job Ref:

Teaching Assistant

Aylesford School - Sports College
Salary Kent Scheme 3
Aylesford School - Sports College is an innovative forward looking Specialist Sports College. We have a strong community ethos where we put the learner at the heart of everything we do. At Aylesford School - Sports College we can offer you:- Outstanding facilities in all areas. A highly regarded CPD programme with personal professional pathways. A buzzing and vibrant staff who are friendly and keen to help one another. A forward looking curriculum with individualised pathways for students. We are looking for a committed professional who:- Can motivate students through the curriculum. Has the desire to make the difference. Is focussed on developing their career further. For an application pack please contact Miss Jill McKenna on 01622 717341 or email your request to jill.mckenna@aylesford.kent.sch.uk Please note that this School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.
To apply/more information:
Aylesford School - Sports College
jill.mckenna@aylesford.kent.sch.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Engineering, Manufacturing, Utilities

Area Electrical Technician

Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells
Salary circa. £25,000
To apply/more information:
Arriva Southern Counties
phillipsa.sc@arriva.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Health & Beauty

Experienced Stylist & Apprentices

Folkestone
Salary TBC
Keith Graham Hairdressing Requires experienced stylists and apprentices at their Folkestone salon. Please call Sarah on 01303 257795.
To apply/more information:
Keith Graham Academy
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

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JobsforKent.co.uk
To advertise in this section or online
✆ 01303 817040

HR, Recruitment

SENIOR PAYROLL/ ACCOUNTS ASSISTANT

Broadstairs
Salary Dependant on Qualifications
To apply/more information:
Blaze Neon Ltd
sarahw@blazeneon.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Information Tech, Internet, Telecoms

Folding Operators

Ashford
Salary will be commensurate with experience.
To apply/more information:
CCL Label (Ashford) Ltd
GMorgan@cclind.com
Quoting Job Ref:

Litho Printer

Ashford
Salary TBC
Experienced Litho Printer to operate Heidelberg SM102 (temporary position) Salary will be commensurate with experience. If you would like to discuss the above positions, please contact Niall Warne, Production Manager or Matt Knight, Studio Manager. Please apply in writing enclosing full CV to the address below. Alternatively applications may be emailed to gmorgan@cclind.com CCL Label (Ashford) Limited, Foster Road, Ashford Business Park, Sevington, Ashford, Kent, TN24 0SH Tel: 01233 503333.
To apply/more information:
CCL Label (Ashford) Ltd
GMorgan@cclind.com
Quoting Job Ref:

Studio Mac Operator

Ashford
Salary TBC
To apply/more information:
CCL Label (Ashford) Ltd
GMorgan@cclind.com
Quoting Job Ref:

Insurance, Banking, Finance

Sales Person and Administrator

Whitfield, Dover
Salary To be advised
Sales Person and Administrator required to work in busy Insurance Agency Dealing with customers, selling, processing changes and giving FSA regulated advice. Good interpersonal skills and computer proficiency required but full training will be given. Salary commensurate with experience. Please send CV to: whitfield@nfumutual.co.uk Or send to: Mr M C Welham Unit 9 Whitfield Court Whiteclifs Business Park Whitstable Dover, Kent. CT16 3PX.
To apply/more information:
Mr M C Welham
Whitfield_Agency@nfumutual.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: KOS

Leisure, Tourism, Travel

RECEPTION MANAGER

Dover
Salary Negotiable depending
To apply/more information:
Ramada Hotel Dover
gm@ramadadover.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: TB/0610/dm

Full Time Sales Consultants

Farnborough
Salary TBC
Experienced FULL TIME SALES CONSULTANTS required for our Farnborough office to join our busy call centre You will be familiar with dynamic packaging and have a good customer service and willing to work flexible hours. Fleetway Travel are fully ABTA, IATA, ATOL. The current opening hours are: 14.30-23.00 Monday-Thursday, 12.30-21.00 Friday and Saturday and 13.30-22.00 Sunday. Bank Holidays 12.30-21.00. For information please email hr@fleetway.com or call Jo-Anne Robinson on 0844 571 5672.
To apply/more information:
Fleetway Travel
hr@fleetway.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Santas

Bluewater
Salary TBC
HO HO HO! Seeking all Santas If you have a jolly personality, heaps of Christmas Spirit and a good rapport with children then we want you! To work in our Christmas Grotto at Bluewater Shopping Centre and Royal Victoria Place in Tunbridge Wells. We supply full costume including beard and belly if

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required, comprehensive training and a fun working environment. Full or Part Time hours available. You will either need to hold a CRB check no older than 12 months or be willing for us to apply for one on your behalf. Positions for Elves and Grotto Supervisors also available. Apply online: www.dreamtimeevents.com or contact us on: Tel: 01727 767258 E-Mail: office@dreamtimeevents.com
To apply/more information:
Dreamtime Events
office@dreamtimeevents.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Santas

Tunbridge Wells
Salary TBC
To apply/more information:
Dreamtime Events
office@dreamtimeevents.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Elves

Bluewater
Salary TBC
To apply/more information:
Dreamtime Events
office@dreamtimeevents.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Elves

Tunbridge Wells
Salary TBC
To apply/more information:
Dreamtime Events
office@dreamtimeevents.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Management, Senior Positions

RECEPTION MANAGER

Dover
Salary Negotiable depending upon experience
To apply/more information:
Ramada Hotel Dover
gm@ramadadover.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: TB/0610/dm

SECOND DEPUTY HEAD OF CARE

Broadstairs
Salary £27,202
To apply/more information:
Stone Bay School
office@stone-bay.kent.sch.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Senior Project Development Worker

Margate
Salary £26,309 - £29,969 pa
To apply/more information:
Childrens Society
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: Ref: S01962/KOS

Territory Sales Manager

Groombridge
Salary £35k to £45k plus commission
To apply/more information:
Grove House Publishing
alan@ghpublishing.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Marketing, Advertising

Marketing, Sales and Communication

Canterbury
Salary 14k (starting **salary**)
To apply/more information:
Canterbury Health Practice
monique@
canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: 2010-02

Administrator/ Business Support

Folkestone
Salary TBC
Part time Administrator/Business Support Person Folkestone based (Shearway Business Park) Management Consultancy seeks part time administrator/business support person to work 8-12 days per month on a flexible basis. Main tasks will be to provide marketing and operations support. Must have good organisational and computer skills and be a self starter. Position available immediately. Please send CV to Robert Stearn at email: r.stearn@erauk.net
To apply/more information:
Expense Reduction Analysts
r.stearn@erauk.net
Quoting Job Ref:

Junior Marketing Openings - Immediate Starts Available

Maidstone
Salary Negotiable
How much are you worth? YOU decide!! JK Marketing Servies is actively seeking creative professionals who are serious about long term success in a marketing development opportunity. A positive and energetic attitude is a must for all candidates. Why JK? JK Marketing Services is committed to setting a standard of excellence for our clients, as well as providing each individual with a unique opportunity. Our clients used to rely on the traditional forms of marketing; TV, Radio, Billboards, Spam, Print, Direct Mail and Telemarketing to get their messages across to customers. The JK Way- We represent our clients to the public with a professionalism and enthusiasm. Meeting with them face to face means we build a personal relationship with them, educate them and make them aware of their options. Our residential campaigns reach a high percentage of the population & saturating the market to help our clients increase their customer base. No experience necessary as we can provide advice and insight into all areas listed below. Our marketing and communications experts provide full product knowledge to the right candidates. Although we are not looking for specific educational qualifications or experience, the following characteristics are mandatory; You must be a people person You must be ambitious You must have a strong work ethic You must value integrity WE ARE LOOKING FOR FUTURE PARTNERS NOT EMPLOYEES!!! Due to the nature of the openings and for the number of people currently looking for work in Kent, multiple interviews will be involved for selected candidates. If you believe you can rise to the challenge and you share our passion for excellence in all areas of field sales we would love to hear from you. Please send a cover letter with your CV to admin@jkmarketingservices.com for immediate consideration or alternatively call and speak to Gemma on 01622 691730 for an immediate appointment. *ALL APPLICANTS MUST BE 18+ YEARS OF AGE AND AVAILABLE FOR FULL TIME HOURS.
To apply/more information:
JK Marketing Services
admin@
jkmarketingservices.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Motor Trade, Driver

Drivers

Maidstone
Salary TBC
Extrastaff are recruiting for DRIVERS Class 1 and Class 2 HIAB and Moffat 7.5 tonne Multi-drop All must have digital taco and multi-drop experience Based in Maidstone, Aylesford and surrounding area. Please call Sarah on 01622 695555.
To apply/more information:
Extrastaff Ltd
sarah.harbour@extrastaff.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

LGV C+E (HGV1) Drivers

Aylesford
Salary TBC
LGV C+E (HGV1) Drivers required to carry out store deliveries on behalf of a well known Supermarket chain. Various shifts available throughout the week - earlies, lates and weekends. Our client's insurance dictates that Drivers must hold a UK pass licence, be over 25, have 2 years C+E experience, and no more than 6 points for minor endorsements (no DRs or DDs). £9.25 - £14.00 per hour. Please contact Alex on 01622 664999 The Best Connection, Cornwallis House, Pudding Lane, Maidstone, ME14 1NY.
To apply/more information:
Best Connection Agency (The)
maidstone@
thebestconnection.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: KOS/AH/07

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JobsforKent.co.uk
To advertise in this section or online
01303 817040

7.5T Multi-Drop Drivers

Aylesford
Salary TBC
Extrastaff are recruiting for 7.5T Multi-Drop Drivers All must have digital taco and multi-drop experience. Based in Aylesford, Maidstone. Please call Sarah on 01622 695555.
To apply/more information:
Extrastaff Ltd
sarah.harbour@extrastaff.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Nursing, Medicine, Care Work

Qualified & Registered Nurses (Clinical Advisors)

Coxheath
Salary Band 5, £21,176 - £27,534 + 25% unsocial hour payment
To apply/more information:
South East Coast Ambulance Service
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: 278-CLINADVISOR-0510-JT

Registered Nurse

Barham, Canterbury
Salary TBC
To apply/more information:
Barham House
barhamhouse@hotmail.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref:

Registered Nurses

Tunbridge Wells
Salary TBC
To apply/more information:
Careerline Ltd
neil@careerline.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref:

Registered Nurses

Tunbridge Wells
Salary TBC
To apply/more information:
Careerline Limited
tim@careerline.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Carers

Herne Bay
Salary TBC
To apply/more information:
Enterprising Opportunities
M.Hawkes@
enterprisingopps.org.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Support Workers

Strood
Salary £13,250
To apply/more information:
ACH Care Homes Ltd
michelle.jenkins@achuk.com
Quoting Job Ref:

Bank Support Workers

Gravesend
Salary £6.53 per hour
Is this the job for you? ACH is a fast-growing organisation, developing new, high-quality residential homes for adults with Learning Disabilities. Due to our continued growth we now require the following staff to complement our team at our home in Gravesend. Bank Support Workers £6.53 per hour For an application pack please visit our website at www.achuk.com Alternatively e-mail louanne.newman@ achuk.com or contact Human Resources on 0208 502 8849.
To apply/more information:
ACH Care Homes Ltd
michelle.jenkins@achuk.com
Quoting Job Ref:

Support Workers

Bobbing
Salary £13,250
To apply/more information:
ACH Care Homes Ltd
michelle.jenkins@achuk.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Full/Part time Care Assistants

Thanet
Salary TBC
To apply/more information:
121 Care & Mobility
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref:

Care Workers

Ashford
Salary TBC
To apply/more information:
Scott Care Ltd
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Registered Nurse

Dymchurch
Salary To be advised
BETHANY LODGE, Dymchurch Requires: REGISTERED NURSE Day or Night duty. To join us in caring for Adults with a physical disability. For more information and an application form please contact the Manager on Tel: 01303 872289.
To apply/more information:
Bethany Lodge/Bethany House
bethanylodge@btconnect.com
Quoting Job Ref: KOS

Senior Project Development Worker

Margate
Salary £26,309 - £29,969 pa
To apply/more information:
Childrens Society
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: Ref: S01962/KOS

Other

EARN AN INCREASING MONTHLY INCOME...

Kent
Salary Generous Payments
To apply/more information:
Utility Warehouse
alanbarnett@telecomplus.org.uk
Quoting Job Ref: KOS

Print, Packaging, Distribution

Distributors

Kent
Salary TBC
DISTRIBUTORS WANTED to deliver the new Yellow Pages. A car is required. For more information, details of other work available, and to apply online please go to: www.deya.co.uk/jobs, alternatively to apply call us (24hours) on: 0118 989 9909 or freephone 0800 298 7101.
To apply/more information:
Deya Ltd
jan.jennings@deya.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Litho Printer

Ashford
Salary TBC
To apply/more information:
CCL Label (Ashford) Ltd
GMorgan@cclind.com
Quoting Job Ref:

Studio Mac Operator

Ashford
Salary TBC
Studio Mac Operator: preparing artwork for litho and flexo plates, preparing artwork for digital presses and creating PDF proofs for customer review. A good eye for detail is essential. Experience with litho and flexo printing is preferred although training could be given to the successful applicant. Experience with PCs and Macs is essential. Salary will be commensurate with experience. If you would like to discuss the above positions, please contact Niall Warne, Production Manager or Matt Knight, Studio Manager. Please apply in writing enclosing full CV to the address below. Alternatively applications may be emailed to gmorgan@cclind.com CCL Label (Ashford) Limited, Foster Road, Ashford Business Park, Sevington, Ashford, Kent, TN24 0SH Tel: 01233 503333.
To apply/more information:
CCL Label (Ashford) Ltd
GMorgan@cclind.com
Quoting Job Ref:

7.5T Multi-Drop Drivers

Aylesford
Salary TBC
To apply/more information:
Extrastaff Ltd
sarah.harbour@extrastaff.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Public Relations, Media, Journalism

Sales Executives

Groombridge
Salary £25k to £30k plus commission
To apply/more information:
Grove House Publishing
alan@ghpublishing.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Territory Sales Manager

Groombridge
Salary £35k to £45k plus commission
To apply/more information:
Grove House Publishing
alan@ghpublishing.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Public Sector, Social Services

Care Workers

Ashford
Salary TBC
To apply/more information:
Scott Care Ltd
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Retail, Wholesale, Sales

Full Time Sales Consultants

Farnborough
Salary TBC
To apply/more information:
Fleetway Travel
hr@fleetway.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Sales Executive

Maidstone outskirts
Salary £14k + commission
Our client is seeking a Sales Executive to make outbound (warm and cold calling) calls to discuss their exciting opportunities to potential customers. You will come from a telesales or banking (debt collection) background and not shy away from getting that sale. You will have experience building rapport with clients and possess an excellent telephone manner. In-house training will be provided to assist with you closing that important deal.
To apply/more information:
Interpersonnel
jfk@interpersonnel.ltd.uk
Quoting Job Ref: 1709

Sales Person

New Romney
Salary To Be Advised
To apply/more information:
HCP Limited
sue.king@hcp-ltd.com
Quoting Job Ref: KOS

Sales Person and Administrator

Whitfield, Dover
Salary To be advised
Sales Person and Administrator required to work in busy Insurance Agency Dealing with customers, selling, processing changes and giving FSA regulated advice. Good interpersonal skills and computer proficiency required but full training will be given. Salary commensurate with experience. Please send CV to: whitfield@nfumutual.co.uk Or send to: Mr M C Welham Unit 9 Whitfield Court Whitecliffs Business Park Whitstable Dover, Kent. CT16 3PX.
To apply/more information:
Mr M C Welham
Whitfield_Agency@
nfumutual.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: KOS

Sales Executives

Groombridge
Salary £25k to £30k plus commission
To apply/more information:
Grove House Publishing
alan@ghpublishing.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Territory Sales Manager

Groombridge
Salary £35k to £45k plus commission
Territory Sales Manager £35k to £45k plus commission required for growing business to business publisher Due to continued expansion we are looking for sales people with a strong background in display media sales. You will have at least 5 years experience and be able to work with clients at management and board level. Salary package negotiable, dependant on experience. Position will be based in Groombridge, Kent in our beautiful rural environment. Email with your CV to alan@ghpublishing.co.uk or call 01892 861993.
To apply/more information:
Grove House Publishing
alan@ghpublishing.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Transport, Logistics, Aviation

Area Electrical Technician

Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells
Salary circa. £25,000
Get you Career moving Area Electrical Technician - Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells circa. £25,000, use of Company vehicle Arriva's UK Bus division is part of Arriva plc, one of Europe's leading transport services organisations. We are one of the biggest bus operators within the UK, employing around 17,000 people and running over 7,000 buses. Due to staff retirement, we are looking to recruit a qualified PCV/HGV Skilled Electrician to work between our Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells depots, reporting directly to the Engineering Manager. The primary responsibility of the role is the maintenance of a varied fleet, comprising 131 vehicles including double decks and midi-buses. The ideal candidate will possess excellent diagnostic skills and be a good communicator, as an emphasis on team working will be paramount. A solid understanding of Department for Transport/VOSA maintenance standards will also be essential. Applicants will occasionally be required to work unsupervised in maintaining our vehicles to the highest standard of safety and quality. A company van will be provided for business use between the two sites. A competitive **salary** is on offer along with all the other benefits of working for Europe's largest transport company. Personal qualities should include: Flexible approach to hours of work, based on 38 hours per week, working three 8 hour days and two 7 hour days per week. Self-motivated. Good communication skills, verbal and written. Team-worker. Awareness and adherence to all health and safety matters. Car licence essential, PCV licence holders preferred, although training will be provided for Non-PCV licence holders. To apply, please send your CV and a covering letter to: Mr David Gadsby, Engineering Manager, Arriva Southern Counties Limited, Invicta House, Armstrong Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6TX or email: gadsbyd.sc@arriva.co.uk Arriva is committed to diversity. If you're good you're welcome. arrivabus.co.uk.
To apply/more information:
Arriva Southern Counties
phillipsa.sc@arriva.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref:

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JobsforKent.co.uk
To advertise in this section or online
01303 817040

LGV C+E (HGV1) Drivers

Mid Kent
Salary £8.50+ per hour
LGV C+E (HGV1) Drivers required for various driving assignments for our Kent based clients. Work available includes Supermarkets / Store Deliveries, General Haulage, Night Trunking plus more. Varying shifts :- Weekdays , Weekends, Earlies, Lates, Nights. £8.50+ per hour. Enhanced rates for Limited Company Drivers. Insurance restrictions differ between clients. In general, aplicants must be over 25, and have more than 6 points for minor endorsements (no DRs or DDs). Applicants must also be able to provide references for previous commercial driving experience. The Best Connection Employment Group, Cornwallis House, Pudding Lane, Maidstone, ME14 1NY. Telephone: 01622 664999
To apply/more information:
Best Connection Agency (The)
maidstone@
thebestconnection.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: KOS/AH/02

LGV C (HGV2) Drivers

North Kent
Salary £7.50 -£11.25 per hour
We are looking for LGV C (HGV2) Drivers to work for our Kent based client on a temporary / on going basis. You will be delivering clean laundry and collecting of used laundry from hotels. Up to 20 drops per day. Drops can include both caged delvieries as well as handball. On some routes you may be accompanied by a Porter. Start times between 0400 - 1500, over Monday to saturday. Due to insurance, applicants must be over 25, and have more than 6 points for minor endorsements (no DRs or DDs). Applicants must also be able to provide references for previous commercial driving experience. The Best Connection Employment Group, Cornwallis House, Pudding Lane, Maidstone, ME14 1NY. Telephone: 01622 664999.
To apply/more information:
Best Connection Agency (The)
maidstone@
thebestconnection.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: KOS/AH/03

Multidrop Van Drivers

Kent
Salary TBC
We are looking for experienced Mulitdrop Van Drivers to assist our clients with the increase in work up to Christmas. We have clients based all over Kent including Maidstone, Aylesford, Larkfield, Ashford and Canterbury. You will be expected to carry out 50+ drops per day, therefore applicants will need previous experience of similar drop numbers. Areas to be delivered to will include the ME, CT, DA, and TN postcodes. Due to insurance restrictions, drivers must be 25 and have no more than 6 points for minor endorsements (no DRs or DDs). Other assignments available for flexible drivers. The Best Connection Employment Group, Cornwallis House, Pudding Lane, Maidstone, ME14 1NY. Telephone: 01622 664999
To apply/more information:
Best Connection Agency (The)
maidstone@
thebestconnection.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: KOS/AH/06

LGV C+E (HGV1) Drivers

Aylesford
Salary TBC
LGV C+E (HGV1) Drivers required to carry out store deliveries on behalf of a well known Supermarket chain. Various shifts available throughout the week - earlies, lates and weekends. Our client's insurance dictates that Drivers must hold a UK pass licence, be over 25, have 2 years C+E experience, and no more than 6 points for minor endorsements (no DRs or DDs). £9.25 - £14.00 per hour. Please contact Alex on 01622 664999. The Best Connection, Cornwallis House, Pudding Lane, Maidstone, ME14 1NY.
To apply/more information:
Best Connection Agency (The)
maidstone@
thebestconnection.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: KOS/AH/07

Transport Clerk

Ashford
Salary TBC
Transport Clerk required Must be computer literate Mon-Fri 7am-3pm Temp to Perm Based in Ashford Please call Sarah on 01622 695555.
To apply/more information:
Extrastaff Ltd
sarah.harbour@extrastaff.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

HIGHWAYS - District of Canterbury

MAYPOLE ROAD & FORD HILL, HOATH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that because of water mains replacement works, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Maypole Road & Ford Hill, Hoath, on or after 15 November 2010 for up to up to 22 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in phases between the junctions with Maypole Lane and Highstead, as detailed below.

Phase 1 – between the junctions with Church Road and the southern junction with Maypole Lane.
From 15 November 2010 for up to 6 weeks

Phase 2 – between the 2 junctions with Maypole Lane
From 3 January 2011 for up to 7 weeks

Phase 3 – between the northern junction with Maypole Lane and the Pumping Station opposite Ford Cottages.
From 14 February for up to 7 weeks

It may be necessary to close Ford Road at the junction with Ford Hill during this phase for safety reasons, with a local diversion via Margate Road.

The dates of the second and third phases are approximate guidelines, and may vary subject to weather and ground conditions. The exact dates will be notified to local residents and signposted on site.

The alternative route for through traffic is via Hoath Road, Babs Oak Hill, A28 Island Road, A291 Sturry Hill, Herne Bay Road, Canterbury Road, A299 Thanet Way, Heart In Hand Road, Ford Hill and Maypole Road.

The junctions with Maypole Lane and Church Road will be kept open.

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL FORGE LANE AND CROWHURST LANE, WEST KINGSDOWN (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Forge Lane, West Kingsdown between A20 London Road and Crowhurst Lane. Kent County Council also intends to make an Order suspending the one way restriction on Crowhurst Lane, West Kingsdown between Forge Lane and A20 London Road.

The Order will become effective on 29th November 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 2 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: A20 London Road and Crowhurst Lane

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate renewal of existing water mains and associated service pipe.

HIGHWAYS - District of Shepway

CAESAR'S WAY, FOLKESTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Caesar's Way, Folkestone, on or after 19 November 2010 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the junction with Biggins Wood Road.

Caesar's Way is a cul-de-sac, therefore there is no alternative route. Every effort will be made to maintain access whenever it is safe to do so.

It is planned that these works will be carried out between the hours of 9.00 am and 7.00 pm, with the road re-opened outside these hours.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (NEW POUND LANE, MEREWORTH) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on New Pound Lane, from Beech Road to just past number 72 on or after Monday 29th November 2010 when required for a period of up to 5 days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Beech Road, B2016 Seven Mile Lane, Willow Wents, New Pound Lane.

EDF Energy Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to replace a pole and an open wire power line. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Scott Davis on 01732 783986.

HIGHWAYS - Boroughs of Tonbridge & Malling, Sevenoaks & Gravesham

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, WROTHAM, SEVENOAKS AND GRAVESEND) (SPEED LIMITS) ORDER 2010 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

Notice is hereby given that the Kent County Council, in exercise of its powers has made an Order under Sections 82, 83 and 84 of and part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which has reduced the existing National speed limit to 50mph, on the A227 Gravesend Road from a point 25.0 metres north of the mid point of its roundabout junction with the A20 London Road, to a point 205.0 metres south west of the mid point of its junction with Vigo Hill.

A new 50mphspeed limit has been introduced from a point 70.0 metres north of the boundary of number 301 A227 Wrotham Road through to a point 100.0 metres south of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link Over-Bridge in Gravesend, where it will tie in with the existing 40mph speed limit on the A227 approach to Gravesend.

Vigo Hill has become subject to a new 40mph speed limit as part of the proposals, from its junction with A227 Wrotham Road, eastwards for a distance of 115.0 metres, which is the most suitable location for the entry and exit signs to be located.

A copy of the scheme which shall / has come into force on Monday, 15th November, 2010, an explanatory statement and a plan showing the extents of the scheme can be inspected during normal office hours at the Kent County Council Offices, Sessions House, County Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ, the Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council Offices, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling Kent, ME19 4LZ, Gravesham Borough Council Offices, Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1AU, Wrotham Parish Council, Web Page at www.wrothampc.kentparishes.gov.uk, Vigo Parish Council Offices, Vigo Village Hall, Vigo, Gravesend, Kent, DA13 0TD, Meopham Parish Council Offices, The Windmill, Meopham Green, Meopham, Kent DA13 0QA, Stansted Parish Council Offices, 53 Capelands, New Ash Green, Sevenoaks, Kent, DA3 8LQ and Trottiscliffe Parish Council Offices, The Willow House, Church Lane, Trottiscliffe, Kent, ME19 5EB.

Anyone may, by application to the High Court within 6 weeks of the date of publication of this Notice, challenge the validity of the Orders or of any provision contained in them on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or of any instrument made there under, or that there has been a failure to comply with any statutory requirement in relation to the Order.

KATHERINE KERSWELL, Group Managing Director for Kent County Council, County Hall Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent Highway Services

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KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949
AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004
APPROVED PREMISES FOR
CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

Applications have been made to Kent County Council to grant an approval for the following premises to act as venues for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Hoath House, Chiddingstone Hoath, Edenbridge**
Applicant: **Mr Richard Streatfeild**
Name of Premises: **Farm House, Coldharbour Lane, Hildenborough**
Applicant: **Mr Philip Wright**

Plans of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey, Head of Registration
First Floor, Invicta House
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX

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Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

10/03467/FUL Cranbrook RFC Angley Road, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst
- To provide a permanent response base by installing a portakabin type building and hardstanding for ambulance response vehicle (CA)

10/03514/LBC Pound House Wilsley Pound, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst
- Retrospective - Replacement of boundary fence and gate, and fencing within the curtilage (LB)

10/03569/LBC Bettenham Manor Bettenham Lane, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst
- Listed Building Consent: Removal of concrete beam over window in lounge and insertion of replacement steel beam; alteration and replacement of stud partition in bedroom 3 to provide support to beam; repairs and alterations to beam and post in bedroom 1; repair and alteration to ceiling joist to loft space bedroom; installation of new replacement spandrel brace to cross beam in bedroom 1; and construction of a new studwork partition to create a w.c in bedroom 3 (LB)

10/03577/FUL Sissinghurst Castle Biddenden Road, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst
- Minor external alterations and internal changes to restaurant and servery (LB)

10/03579/LBC Sissinghurst Castle Biddenden Road, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst
- Listed Building Consent: Minor external alterations and internal changes to restaurant and servery (LB)

10/03453/LBC Mill Cottage High Street, Lamberhurst
- Listed Building Consent - Upgrade leaky valley gutter, form new fibreglass valley using chopped strand matting and resins with grey flocoat finish to full length of main valley (LB)

10/03552/LBC Bradworth Lodge School Hill, Lamberhurst
- Application for Listed Building Consent to retain installtion of staircase, stud walls and sanitary fittings to first floor and second floor already carried out (LB)

10/03553/HOUSE 2 Romford Road Pembury, Pembury
- Demolish existing garage/garden store and replace with new double garage/garden store (LB)

10/03503/HOUSE Little Sponden Sponden Lane, Sandhurst
- Single storey rear extension with link section, new side entrance door, alteration to wc/hall partition and door, removal of rear chimney stack, removal of staircase enclosure, removal of timber partitioning; Re-instating window to ground floor front elevation, removal of landing door, creation of ensuite shower room, replacement of existing rooflights and one additional rooflights and replacement of upvc rainwater with cast iron (LB)

10/03504/LBC Little Sponden Sponden Lane, Sandhurst
- Listed Building Consent - Single storey rear extension with link section, new side entrance door, alteration to wc/hall partition and door, removal of rear chimney stack, removal of staircase enclosure, removal of timber partitioning; Re-instating window to ground floor front elevation, removal of landing door, creation of ensuite shower room, replacement of existing rooflights and one additional rooflights and replacement of upvc rainwater with cast iron (LB)

10/03546/HOUSE Little Sponden Sponden Lane, Sandhurst
- Demolition of existing garage and shed and construction of replacement single storey detached garage/store and new entrance gates (LB)

10/03549/LBC Little Sponden Sponden Lane, Sandhurst
- Listed Building Consent: Demolition of existing garage and shed (LB)

10/03501/FUL Builders Yard Langton Road, Speldhurst
- Part Retrospective - 1.5-storey three-bedroom dwelling (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement. You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date. You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS
Dated: 13 November 2010

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Seat fortress falling to an all-new model

By **STEVE LOADER**

RATHER like the Spanish fortress that supplied its name, the Seat Alhambra has been a long-standing fixture in the people carrier sector.

But after 14 years the Spanish marque has retired the old-stager in favour of an all-new Mark II produced in partnership with its parent, Volkswagen, whose own version becomes the second generation Sharan.

What is not new is how the two brands will market what is essentially the same car; the VW will occupy the higher ground while the Alhambra can be expected to offer better value

The Seat's prices start at £22,330, which looks attractive for a proper seven-seater – as before – with the added convenience of sliding rear doors and five rear seats that fold flat into the floor rather than having to be removed and stashed somewhere should you wish your Alhambra to morph into a van.

With seats in place though, access to the rearmost pair is made easy by those sliding doors and easy-entry slide-and-tilt second row seats.

And although it is the biggest ever Seat – it measures 4.8 metres – it is a classy looking big brother to Seat's sporty Altea MPV line-up.

The styling is helped by the trademark Seat 'Arrow' nose, which delivers good aerodynamics for a car that is essentially a people-carrying box.

Seat believes it has catered well for full occupancy through a profusion of cupholders, tray tables, cubbies and pockets to easily swallow the detritus that goes along with family outings.

And there is a typical array of VW group engines, including two 2.0-litre turbodiesels of 140 PS (138bhp) or 170 (168bhp) compliant with the latest Euro-V emissions legislation.

For petrol diehards though there is a lively 150PS (148bhp) turbocharged 1.4-litre and all three engines come with a six-speed gearbox or can be specc'd with the VW family's excellent and flexible six-speed DSG (Direct Shift Gearbox) that can be used as a manual or auto with no penalty on economy.

The whole range also benefits from some of Seat's eco-minded technologies including Stop/Start and Brake Energy Recovery – and have the Ecomotive badges to prove it.

However, the 140PS diesel takes the environmental honours and earns the prestigious E Ecomotive title for the lowest emissions of the range and an average around 50mpg.

All Alhambras come with the following as standard: triple-zone climate control, parking sensors front and rear, electronic handbrake, Bluetooth hands-free phone connection, 16-inch alloys, stop/start and energy recovery (battery charging from braking).

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2009 (09) HYUNDAI I10 COMFORT 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 7000 miles £6,995
2008 (58) HYUNDAI GETZ GSI 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 1000 miles £6,995
2007 (57) HYUNDAI ACCENT ATLANTIC LIMITED EDITION 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 6000 miles £5,995
2006 (56) HYUNDAI GETZ CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 9000 miles £5,995
2008 (08) HYUNDAI AMICA CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 24000 miles £5,995
2008 (08) HYUNDAI AMICA CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 5000 miles £5,995
2007 (57) HYUNDAI MATRIX GSI SALOON AUTO, RED, 12000 miles £5,995
2008 (08) HYUNDAI AMICA CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 9000 miles £5,995
2008 (08) HYUNDAI MATRIX CLASSIC MPV, BLACK, 8000 miles £5,995
2007 (07) HYUNDAI AMICA CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles £5,495

KIA

2008 (58) KIA PICANTO 2 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 10000 miles £6,995
2009 (09) KIA PICANTO 2 5DR HATCH AUTO, ORANGE, 2000 miles £6,995
2007 (57) KIA RIO ICE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 9000 miles £5,495

DAIHATSU

2008 (08) DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles £7,995
2008 (08) DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 13000 miles £7,995
2007 (57) DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles £7,495
2007 (07) DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 16000 miles £6,995
2007 (07) DAIHATSU SIRION 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 20000 miles £6,995

FIAT

2007 (56) FIAT PANDA ELEGANZA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 25000 miles £4,995
2006 (56) FIAT PANDA ELEGANZA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 16000 miles £4,995

FUSION

2008 (08) FORD FUSION FUSION + 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 13000 miles £7,995
2008 (08) FORD FUSION FUSION + 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 3000 miles £7,995
2007 (07) FORD FUSION ZETEC CLIMATE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 4000 miles £5,995
2004 (54) FORD FUSION FUSION 2 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 52000 miles £3,995

CITROEN

2010 (60) CITROEN NEMO 8V HDI TURBO MPV AUTO, RED, 100 miles £9,995
2008 (58) CITROEN C4 SX 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 1800 miles £8,995
2007 (57) CITROEN C3 SX 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 13000 miles £5,995
2002 (02) CITROEN SAXO DESIRE 3DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 54000 miles £2,995

MONDEO

2006 (56) FORD MONDEO LX 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 24000 miles £6,995

CORSA

2010 (10) VAUXHALL CORSA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 1000 miles £11,495
2010 (10) VAUXHALL CORSA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 6000 miles £10,995
2010 (10) VAUXHALL CORSA EXCLUSIV AC 5DR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 6000 miles £9,995
2009 (59) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 750 miles £9,495
2009 (09) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 4000 miles £8,995
2008 (58) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 2000 miles £8,495
2008 (58) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 9000 miles £8,495
2008 (58) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles £8,495
2007 (57) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 3DR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 5000 miles £7,495
2008 (57) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 9000 miles £6,995
2005 (05) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN CDTI 16V 5DR TD HATCH, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 65000 miles £3,995

MAZDA

2008 (58) MAZDA 5 5 TS2 MPV AUTO, RED, 12000 miles £11,995
2008 (58) MAZDA 3 3 TAKARA 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 5000 miles £9,995
2007 (57) MAZDA 3 3 TS 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 8000 miles £8,995
2006 (56) MAZDA 6 6 TS 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 16000 miles £7,995
2006 (56) MAZDA 6 6 TS 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 21000 miles £7,995
2007 (56) MAZDA 2 2 S 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 17000 miles £5,995

SUZUKI

2009 (B) SUZUKI GRAND VITARA 16V ESTATE AUTO 4x4, BLUE, 13000 miles £12,995
2009 (59) SUZUKI SWIFT GLX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 450 miles £9,495
2009 (59) SUZUKI SWIFT GLX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles £8,995
2007 (07) SUZUKI IGNIS GL VVT-S 5DR HATCH AUTO, WHITE, 9000 miles £5,995

TOYOTA

2007 (6) TOYOTA RAV-4 XT3 VVT-I ESTATE AUTO 4x4, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 17000 miles £13,995
2007 (07) TOYOTA RAV-4 XT3 VVT-I ESTATE AUTO 4x4, BLUE, 16000 miles £13,995
2007 (07) TOYOTA RAV-4 XT3 VVT-I ESTATE AUTO 4x4, GREY, 16000 miles £13,995
2007 (57) TOYOTA AVENSIS T3-X VVT-I 5DR HATCH, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 19000 miles £9,995
2007 (07) TOYOTA COROLLA VERSO T3 VVT-I MPV AUTO, RED, 25000 miles £9,995
2007 (07) TOYOTA AURIS T3 VVT-I MM 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 17000 miles £8,995
2007 (07) TOYOTA COROLLA T3 VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles £8,995
2007 (56) TOYOTA COROLLA T3 VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, IXION BLUE, 13000 miles £8,995
2007 (56) TOYOTA COROLLA T3 COLOUR COLLECTION VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 8000 miles £8,995
2008 (58) TOYOTA YARIS T3 VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 6000 miles £8,495
2008 (08) TOYOTA YARIS T3 VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, VENETIAN SILVER, 14000 miles £7,995
2009 (59) TOYOTA AYGO BLUE VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 7000 miles £6,995
2007 (07) TOYOTA YARIS T3 VVT-I MM 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 21000 miles £6,995
2005 (55) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I 3DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 5000 miles £6,995
2004 (54) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 1750 miles £6,995
2004 (04) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, CRYSTAL SILVER, 6000 miles £6,295
2004 (04) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I 5DR HATCH, BLACK, 25000 miles £5,995

NISSAN

2009 (09) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, CAFFE LATTE, 11000 miles £14,995
2008 (58) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles £14,495
2008 (08) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles £13,995
2009 (59) NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO, BLACK, 1900 miles £10,995
2007 (07) NISSAN QASHQAI VISIA 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 21000 miles £10,995
2007 (07) NISSAN QASHQAI VISIA 5DR HATCH AUTO, FIRED IRON, 19000 miles £10,995
2007 (57) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles £8,995
2009 (59) NISSAN NOTE VISIA MPV AUTO, GREY, 1800 miles £8,995
2009 (59) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 7000 miles £8,495
2009 (59) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 8000 miles £8,495
2010 (10) NISSAN PIXO N-TEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 500 miles £7,995
2007 (07) NISSAN MICRA SPORT CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles £7,995
2008 (08) NISSAN NOTE ACENTA MPV AUTO, BLUE, 11000 miles £7,995
2006 (06) NISSAN MICRA CC SPORT CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 12000 miles £7,995
2008 (08) NISSAN NOTE ACENTA MPV AUTO, RED, 14000 miles £7,995
2007 (57) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 15000 miles £6,995
2007 (07) NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA 5DR HATCH AUTO, CAFFE LATTE, 18000 miles £5,995
2006 (56) NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 15000 miles £5,995
2007 (57) NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA 3DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 14000 miles £5,995
2004 (04) NISSAN MICRA S 3DR HATCH AUTO, ARUBA BLUE, 12000 miles £4,995
2002 (02) NISSAN MICRA S 3DR HATCH AUTO, WHITE, 19000 miles £2,995

ASTRA HATCHBACKS

2008 (58) VAUXHALL ASTRA ELITE CDTI 5DR TD HATCH AUTO, PANACOTTA, 11000 miles £10,995
2008 (58) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 HATCH AUTO, SILVER, 9000 miles £7,995
2008 (57) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 14000 miles £7,995
2007 (57) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 17000 miles £7,995
2007 (07) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 10000 miles £6,995
2008 (57) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, TURQUOISE, 10000 miles £5,995
2008 (57) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 2000 miles £5,995
2007 (07) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles £5,995
2007 (57) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE 5DR HATCH AUTO, TURQUOISE, 9000 miles £5,995

ASTRA ESTATES

2008 (58) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 140 ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles £7,995
2007 (57) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 140 ESTATE AUTO, BLUE, 14000 miles £7,995
2007 (57) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 140 ESTATE AUTO, PANNACOTTA, 15000 miles £7,995
2008 (08) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 140 ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 12000 miles £6,995
2008 (08) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 140 ESTATE AUTO, SILVER, 14000 miles £6,995
2006 (56) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V ESTATE AUTO, PANACOTTA, 13000 miles £6,495
2006 (56) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V ESTATE AUTO, BLACK, 11000 miles £5,995
2007 (57) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 140 ESTATE AUTO, BLUE, 15000 miles £5,995
2000 (X) VAUXHALL ASTRA CLUB ESTATE AUTO, BLUE, 23000 miles £2,995

ZAFIRA MERIVA & AGILA

2009 (59) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA EXCLUSIV CDTI TD MPV AUTO, BLACK, 750 miles £13,995
2009 (09) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA EXCLUSIV CDTI TD MPV AUTO, GREEN, 7000 miles £12,995
2010 (10) VAUXHALL MERIVA DESIGN 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 1000 miles £10,995
2009 (09) VAUXHALL AGILA DESIGN 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles £9,495
2009 (59) VAUXHALL MERIVA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 3000 miles £8,995
2008 (08) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, BLACK, 10000 miles £8,995
2007 (07) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 17000 miles £8,495
2006 (56) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, SILVER LIGHTNING, 16000 miles £7,995
2008 (08) VAUXHALL AGILA CLUB MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles £7,995
2007 (57) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 9000 miles £7,995
2007 (07) VAUXHALL MERIVA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 19000 miles £6,995
2006 (56) VAUXHALL MERIVA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 13000 miles £6,495
2008 (58) CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 7000 miles £5,995
2004 (54) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 78000 miles £3,995

CHRYSLER

2007 (57) CHRYSLER PT CRUISER LIMITED 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 13000 miles £6,995

PEUGEOT

2007 (57) PEUGEOT 307 SW SE ESTATE AUTO, RED, 12000 miles £7,995
2008 (08) PEUGEOT 207 SPORT 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 11000 miles £7,995
2007 (57) PEUGEOT 206 LOOK 3DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 2000 miles £6,995
2007 (07) PEUGEOT 307 S 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 17000 miles £6,495
2007 (07) PEUGEOT 107 URBAN 2-TRONIC 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 4000 miles £5,995
2006 (56) PEUGEOT 307 S 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 11000 miles £5,995

MITSUBISHI

2007 (57) MITSUBISHI LANCER ELEGANCE ESTATE AUTO, GREY, 19000 miles £6,995

HONDA

2007 (07) HONDA CR-V I-VTEC ES 5DR HATCH AUTO 4x4, GREY, 24000 miles £17,995
2007 (07) HONDA CR-V I-VTEC SE 5DR HATCH AUTO 4x4, BLACK, 19000 miles £15,995
2007 (07) HONDA CR-V I-VTEC SE 5DR HATCH AUTO 4x4, GREY, 11000 miles £15,995
2007 (07) HONDA CR-V I-VTEC SPORT ESTATE AUTO 4x4, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 23000 miles £13,995
2006 (06) HONDA CR-V I-VTEC SE ESTATE AUTO 4x4, BLACK, 26000 miles £11,995
2009 (58) HONDA JAZZ DSI SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 6000 miles £10,995
2009 (09) HONDA JAZZ DSI SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 3000 miles £10,995
2008 (58) HONDA JAZZ DSI SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 9000 miles £10,495
2007 (07) HONDA JAZZ DSI SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 8000 miles £8,995
2006 (56) HONDA JAZZ DSI SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 18000 miles £7,995

MERCEDES

2009 (09) MERCEDES-BENZ CLK CLK200 KOMPRESSOR AVANTGARDE CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLACK, 20000 miles £26,000
2008 (57) MERCEDES-BENZ C CLASS C180 KOMPRESSOR SE SPORTS COUPE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 22000 miles £13,995
2007 (57) MERCEDES-BENZ C CLASS C180K AVANTGARDE SE SALOON AUTO, CUBANITE SILVER, 23000 miles £13,995
2009 (58) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A160 CDI CLASSIC SE 5DR TD HATCH AUTO, STEPPE BROWN, 8000 miles £12,995
2007 (07) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A150 CLASSIC SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 14000 miles £9,995
2006 (56) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A150 ELEGANCE SE LWB 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 13000 miles £9,995
2007 (07) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A150 CLASSIC SE SWB HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 20000 miles £9,495
2003 (53) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A140 CLASSIC SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 46000 miles £4,995

VOLKSWAGEN

2010 (10) VOLKSWAGEN POLO SE DSG 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 2000 miles £12,995
2007 (57) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF S 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 12000 miles £9,995
2007 (07) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF S 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 17000 miles £9,995
2006 (06) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 5000 miles £9,995
2007 (57) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF S 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 13000 miles £9,995
2008 (58) VOLKSWAGEN POLO MATCH 3DR AUTO, BLACK, 12000 miles £8,995
2007 (07) VOLKSWAGEN POLO S 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 13000 miles £7,995
2007 (57) VOLKSWAGEN POLO S (80BHP) 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 18000 miles £7,995
2007 (57) VOLKSWAGEN POLO S (80BHP) 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 19000 miles £7,995
2007 (07) VOLKSWAGEN POLO S (80BHP) 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 13000 miles £7,495
2007 (07) VOLKSWAGEN POLO S 3DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 16000 miles £7,495
2007 (07) VOLKSWAGEN POLO S 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 22000 miles £6,995
2003 (53) VOLKSWAGEN POLO TWIST 3DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 41000 miles £3,995
2003 (53) VOLKSWAGEN POLO TWIST 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 73000 miles £3,995
2001 (L) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 71000 miles £3,495
2001 (Y) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF S 5DR HATCH, RED, 63000 miles £2,995

DIESEL AUTOMATICS

2009 (09) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA EXCLUSIV CDTI TD MPV AUTO, GREEN, 7000 miles £12,995
2008 (58) VAUXHALL ASTRA ELITE CDTI 5DR TD HATCH AUTO, PANACOTTA, 11000 miles £10,995

MORRIS'S MANUAL CARS

2005 (55) VAUXHALL TIGRA SPORT 16V TWINPORT MANUAL COUPE, BLACK, 26000 miles £6,995
2007 (57) VAUXHALL MERIVA ENERGY CDTI TD MPV, BLACK, 24000 miles £6,995
2004 (04) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I 5DR HATCH, BLACK, 25000 miles £5,995
2007 (07) FIAT PANDA DYNAMIC 5DR HATCH, GREY, 8000 miles £4,995
2007 (07) KIA PICANTO LS 5DR HATCH, BLUE, 17000 miles £4,995
2008 (08) RENAULT TWINGO DYNAMIQUE 3DR HATCH, ORANGE, 35000 miles £4,995
2008 (58) CHEVROLET MATIZ SE PLUS 5DR HATCH, BLUE, 3000 miles £4,995
2005 (05) VAUXHALL AGILA ENJOY 16V TWINPORT MPV, GOLD, 20000 miles £3,995
2004 (04) PEUGEOT 206 SE 5DR HATCH, MOONSTONE SILVER, 36000 miles £3,995
2002 (52) FORD FOCUS ELLE 3DR HATCH, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 51000 miles £3,495
2001 (Y) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF S 5DR HATCH, RED, 63000 miles £2,995

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FIRST GEAR

Compiled by Steve Loader

Skoda offers 4x4 plus DSG combo

SKODA is now offering its robust 2.0 TDI CR 140bhp diesel engine with 4x4 and automatic DSG transmission on hatchback and estate versions of the Superb, and the Octavia Estate and Scout.

This delivers an affordable high-quality all-wheel drive system with the flexible DSG box, which can also be driven like a manual and delivers equivalent fuel consumption.

The Czech marque is also keen to point out the appeal of this new option to people who tow trailers and caravans as well as needing AWD for tricky or snowy conditions. Prices start with the Octavia Estate from £21,705.

Fiat TwinAir to launch attack on diesels

ONE can only marvel again at Fiat's revival.

Almost overnight the motor industry's dead man walking has metamorphosed into one of the most vibrant and original carmakers around.

Its latest winner is a small but powerful low emission turbocharged petrol engine that escapes road tax and will re-open the whole petrol versus diesel debate.

The Italian marque has also dropped this punchy little unit into its big-selling baby car, the 500 – pretty much an unbeatable combination.

The 85bhp 875cc two-cylinder engine is called the TwinAir and claims to be the cleanest quantity production petrol engine in the world.

It is also as nippy as it is economical and eco-friendly, and is expected to scoop a fifth of future 500 sales and cannibalise those of rivals' small diesel models.

Prices start at £10,665 and the powertrain is even available on the even trendier open-top 500C version.

Meriva making bid for COTY award stardom

VAUXHALL could make it two European Car of the Year (COTY) wins in three years with its clever and stylish new Meriva MPV (from £12,995).

It has already beaten off 34 of the latest cars launched in Europe this year and is now shortlisted for the finals at the end of this month; a win would follow up on the Insignia's win two years ago and avenge the Astra's narrow defeat last year by the VW Polo.

A COTY award is reckoned to bring a major boost to sales and, for the Insignia, this may have helped the big Vauxhall dominate sales in the UK's mid-size sector; Vauxhall says it is the preferred choice of twice as many private buyers compared with the Ford Mondeo and it enjoys a five per cent lead over the BMW 3-Series in the same sector.

The Meriva's ace up the sleeve is its rear-hinged back doors, known as FlexDoors, and designed to boost the car's practicality for typical family buyers.

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Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km). Spark 1.0 5dr: Urban 42.8 (6.6), Extra Urban 67.3 (4.2), Combined 55.4 (5.1), CO2 Emissions 119 g/km.

0202

Mazda2 gets more Zoom-Zoom too

by STEVELOADER

IF THE Mazda2 had a flaw it was that it still didn't look as sharp as it was to drive.

But that's all changed with a facelift which lives up to the word – it now fits the brand's Zoom-Zoom image far better.

We probably cut it some slack when this second generation '2' came out in 2007, because it was such a dramatic change from its practical, but rather dull-looking predecessor.

However, the understated front end was a bit of a let down for a car that had plenty of zip in the driving and power department, largely thanks to Mazda's eco-friendly drive to save weight which made the newcomer a whole 100 kilos lighter than the old car while still allowing it to score a maximum five stars in the NCAP safety test.

Mazda, which has its UK HQ at Dartford, says the revised car is even sportier, as well as more comfortable and greener, with cleaner emissions – all of the engines meet demanding new Euro V regulations.

Both three and five-door body designs are retained, but now have the new lower and larger grille that is Mazda's new family face.

This is a far better complement than before to the original sculpted bonnet, sides and tail that the designer claims were finalised during walks around Milan during a business trip – strong UK and European sales testify to the wisdom of his constitutionals in the Italian city of style.

In the current fashion Mazda has also offered buyers the chance to customise their cars with a sports pack – side and rear roof spoilers.

On a practical note, the slightly firmish suspension has been fettled to deliver greater ride comfort and especially over those big expansion cracks on concrete surfaces, though Mazda insists this has not compromised the little car's impressive driving characteristics.

Diesel and petrol options remain, though I think supermini buyers need to weigh – literally – whether they want a great lump of a diesel at the front end of such a nimble little car.

Personally, I would opt for one of the 1.3-litre petrol units (from £9,995) – 74 or 83bhp – rather than the 94bhp 1.6-litre sporting diesel (£14,455) and save some money upfront, too.

You might also question whether you want to pay extra for the 101bhp 1.5-litre petrol unit (from £12,630).

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The Suzuki SX4 from £11,750
Minimum deposit of 50% required
- Alloy wheels (SZ4 & SZ5 models)
- Front, side and curtain airbags
- Air-conditioning
- Front fog lamps (SZ4 & SZ5 models)

The Suzuki Swift from £9,995
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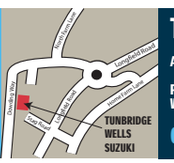
- USB port
- ESP®*
- Engine start button (SZ4 models)
- Bluetooth capability (SZ4 models)

The Suzuki Splash from £9,295
Minimum deposit of 50% required
- £30 per year road tax[77]
- Air-conditioning
- ESP®* (GLS* models)
- 15" Alloy wheels (GLS* models)
- Front fog lamps (GLS* models)



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SX4 model shown is the 1.6 SZ4 M/T available at £12,395.00 on the road (metallic paint available at £375.00). Swift model shown is the 1.2 SZ4 5 door M/T available at £12,245 on the road (metallic paint available at £375.00). Splash model shown is the 1.2 GLS available at £10,315 on the road (metallic paint available at £375.00).

SX4 range official fuel consumption figures in mpg (L/100km): Urban from 30.7 (9.2) to 35.8 (7.9), extra urban from 47.9 (5.9) to 54.3 (5.2), combined from 39.2 (7.2) to 45.6 (6.2). Official CO_2 emissions from 143g/km to 165g/km. Swift range official fuel consumption figures in mpg (L/100km): Urban from 41.5 (6.8) to 46.3 (6.1), extra urban from 57.6 (4.9) to 64.2 (4.4), combined from 50.4 (5.6) to 56.5 (5.0). Official CO_2 emissions from 116g/km to 129g/km. Splash range official fuel consumption figures in mpg (L/100km): Urban from 36.2 (7.8) to 51.4 (5.5), extra urban from 57.6 (4.9) to 70.6 (4.0), combined from 47.9 (5.9) to 62.8 (4.5). Official CO_2 emissions from 119g/km to 142g/km.

0% APR typical finance over 3 years on selected SX4, Swift and Splash models is subject to availability for vehicles privately registered between 01.10.2010 and 31.12.2010 from participating Authorised Suzuki Dealers only. Credit available to persons aged 18 years or over, subject to status. Indemnities may be required. For full details contact your local Suzuki Dealers. Suzuki Finance reserves the right to withdraw or amend this offer without prior notice. The offer is available to customers within the UK (excludes Channel Islands and Isle of Man). Suzuki Finance, part of Black Horse Group, St William House, Tresillian Terrace, Cardiff CF10 5BH. This offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. *ESP® is a registered trademark of Daimler AG.[77] The Splash 1.0 GLS and 1.3 DDis models fall into Government Excise Band C at £30 per year from year 2 onwards. All prices and specifications are correct at time of going to press.

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RENAULT

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*VAT equivalent reduction is calculated on the basic price prior to adding VAT equivalent reduction is not available on vehicle options or accessories. Savings quoted are against MRRP (Manufacturers Recommended Retail Price). Prices includes delivery to dealer, number plates, 17.5% VAT, 12 months' Government road fund licence and £55 first registration fee. These offers apply to vehicles ordered and registered by 31st December 2010 and are available to retail customers only. These offers are not available in conjunction with any other offers and are correct at time of going to press. Cars shown have optional metallic paint (option price £405). Example above excludes cost of optional metallic paint.

The answer my friend is

DrivingReview

by **STEVELOADER**

CHIEF DRIVING CORRESPONDENT
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

Renault Wind

WHAT a great idea. Create a compact, affordable roadster with a secure folding hardtop and give it a name suggesting enjoyable wind-in-the-hair motoring.

Let's call it the Wind.

Except the word can suggest other things and Renault's take on a recipe already well-served by the Vauxhall Tigra does appear to be battling constipation.

Press the button to open the clever targa roof and it could look like you were letting the wind out rather than in.

I also had lots of leg pulls while I had the Wind (yes, the joke wears thin after a while). It reminded one wag of an early-1970s Datsun

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TYPICAL APR 16.9%

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07 07 Citroen C4 Picasso 1.8 16v VTR Plus 7str 5dr BLUE 31164 miles	£8790	£7495	£1295
07 07 Daihatsu Sirion 1.0 SE 5dr Silver 13190 miles	£6400	£5495	£905
08 08 Fiat Grande Punto 1.4 16v T-Jet Sporting 3dr Red 35322 miles	£6400	£6195	£205
08 58 Ford Fiesta 1.25 Style 5dr [Climate] Black 14139 miles	£6999	£6199	£800
09 58 Ford Fiesta 1.4 TDCi Style + 3dr AVALON BLUE 37186 miles	£8299	£7995	£304
09 58 Ford Focus 1.6 Style 5dr BLUE 27342 miles	£8940	£7395	£1545
08 58 Ford Focus 1.8 TDCi Style 5dr Black 16753 miles	£9940	£9000	£940
09 59 Ford Ka 1.2 Zetec 3dr MOONDUST SILVER 6464 miles	£8700	£7999	£701
10 10 Kia Ceed 1.6 CRDi 89 1 5dr White 6486 miles	£11995	£10000	£1995
10 10 Kia Ceed 1.6 CRDi 89 1 5dr White 3954 miles	£11995	£10000	£1995
09 09 Kia Ceed SW 1.6 CRDi 5dr White 3179 miles	£13380	£12000	£1380
08 08 Kia Picanto 1.0 5dr Black 20094 miles	£6025	£5000	£1025
07 07 Kia Sorento 2.5 CRDi XS 5dr Blue 39869 miles	£13499	£13000	£499
09 09 Kia Soul 1.6 2 5dr Silver 12253 miles	£10200	£9499	£701
09 59 Renault Megane 1.4 16V TCE Dynamique 5dr White 5483 miles	£13999	£11000	£2999
07 56 Renault Megane 1.9 dCi 130 Dynamique 5dr Silver 40391 miles	£6700	£5799	£901
08 58 Seat Altea XL 2.0 TDI Stylance 5dr Grey 1887 miles	£13200	£12200	£1000
07 57 Seat Altea XL 2.0 TDI Stylance 5dr Red 31070 miles	£10065	£9299	£766
09 59 Seat EXEO 2.0 TDI CR SE Lux 4dr [170] Ada Blue 6061 miles	£17345	£15499	£1846
08 58 Seat Ibiza 1.2 S 3dr [AC] Black 16230 miles	£8000	£7299	£701
09 09 Seat Ibiza 1.4 SE 3dr LUNA GREY 15816 miles	£9275	£8000	£1275
09 09 Seat Ibiza 1.4 Sport 3dr Silver 20146 miles	£8700	£8000	£700
09 09 Seat Ibiza 1.4 Sport 3dr Yellow 16657 miles	£8499	£8199	£300
08 08 Seat Ibiza 1.4 Sport 3dr [85] Silver 13540 miles	£8495	£7000	£1495
10 10 Seat Ibiza 1.4 TDI Ecomotive 3dr Red 6089 miles	£11499	£11190	£309
10 10 Seat Ibiza 1.4 TDI S 3dr [AC] Silver 1486 miles	£11499	£9490	£2009
10 59 Seat Ibiza 1.6 TDI CR Sport 3dr Yellow 1829 miles	£12020	£11000	£1020

	Was	Now	Save
09 58 Seat Leon 2.0 16V T FSI Cupra 5dr Speed Blue 5976 miles	£16995	£15500	£1495
08 58 Seat Leon 2.0 16V T FSI Cupra 5dr Orange 4268 miles	£15999	£14499	£1500
08 58 Seat Leon 2.0 16V T FSI FR 5dr Black Magic 1830 miles	£14085	£12499	£1586
09 59 Seat Leon 2.0 TSI Cupra 5dr Black 5020 miles	£18700	£16799	£1901
09 59 Toyota IQ 1.0 VVT-i 3dr TYROL SILVER 6915 miles	£8990	£7600	£1390
06 06 Vauxhall Astra Cabriolet 2.0T 16V Design 2dr Silver 22100 miles	£10000	£9000	£1000
07 07 Vauxhall Meriva 1.6i 16V Life 5dr Easytronic [AC] Blue 3656 miles	£6700	£5799	£901
07 07 Volkswagen Touran 1.6 S 102 BLACK 50939 miles	£8000	£7300	£700

	Parker's Price	Our Price	Save
06 56 Audi A3 1.9 TDi Sport 5dr Met Blue 65337 miles	£9535	£9000	£535
08 58 Audi A6 2.0 TDI TDV Limited Edition 4dr Red 33828 miles	£15875	£15499	£376
07 57 BMW 1 Series 120d SE 5dr Blue Met 58966 miles	£12655	£12499	£156
06 06 BMW 3 Series 318i M Sport 4dr Blue 58808 miles	£10975	£10900	£75
07 57 BMW 3 Series 320d M Sport 4dr Blue 29509 miles	£16505	£14495	£2010
07 07 BMW 3 Series 320d SE 4dr Jet Black 51789 miles	£12665	£12000	£665
06 56 BMW 5 Series Estate 520d M Sport i-drive Blue 76354 miles	£15030	£14299	£731
07 57 Chrysler Grand Voyager 2.8 crd LX 5dr Auto Silver 33722 miles	£12670	£11299	£1371
07 07 Citroen C4 Picasso 1.6HDi 16V SX 5dr EGS Red 34448 miles	£9005	£8699	£306
08 58 Citroen C4 Picasso 1.6HDi 16V VTR Plus 5dr EGS 26872 miles	£11490	£10250	£1240
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09 59 Ford S-Max 2.0 TDCi Zetec 5dr Silver 25258 miles	£15585	£14999	£586
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07 57 Jaguar X-type 2.0d S 4dr Black 44541 miles	£10355	£10000	£355
07 57 Jaguar X-type 2.0d S 4dr Red 69581 miles	£8545	£8499	£46
07 07 Jeep Patriot 2.0 CRD Limited 5dr Silver 35053 miles	£11180	£11000	£180
09 59 Kia Ceed 1.6 GS Crdi 5dr Artic White 6050 miles	£10605	£9400	£1205
07 57 Kia Ceed 1.6 LS Crdi 5dr Englsh Pewter 11113 miles	£9585	£8495	£1090
06 06 Kia Sorento 2.5 CRDi XS 5dr Silver 30023 miles	£11745	£11495	£250
07 57 Mazda Mazda5 2.0d Sport 5dr Black 67420 miles	£9555	£8000	£1555
07 57 Mazda RX8 4dr [231] Blue 37269 miles	£9515	£9000	£515
07 07 Mercedes-Benz B Class B180 CDI 5dr Black 39593 miles	£10610	£10000	£610
05 05 Mercedes-Benz C Class C180K SE 4dr Auto Silver 53765 miles	£9835	£9500	£335
08 08 Merc C Class Coupe C180 Komp SE Sports Silver 17045 miles	£13930	£12699	£1231
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09 09 Nissan Note 1.4 Acenta 5dr Silver 11666 miles	£8760	£8499	£261
08 57 Nissan Qashqai 1.5 dCi Tekna 5dr Beige 15801 miles	£14505	£14499	£6
07 57 Nissan Qashqai 1.6 Acenta 5dr Orange 50215 miles	£9450	£9000	£450
07 07 Nissan Qashqai 2.0 Acenta 5dr CVT Blue 20368 miles	£11505	£11000	£505
08 58 Saab 09-Mar 1.9 TTiD 180 Vector Sport 4dr silver 16k miles	£15295	£14499	£796
06 06 Saab 09-May 1.9TiD Auto Vector sport 06 Silver 60206 miles	£7990	£7495	£495
09 09 Seat Ibiza 1.2 S (Ac) 5dr LUNA GREY 15372 miles	£7470	£7000	£470
09 09 Seat Ibiza 1.4 SE 5dr LUNA GREY 12067 miles	£8280	£8200	£80
08 08 Seat Ibiza 1.9 TDi FR 3dr Grey 20173 miles	£9440	£9200	£240
08 58 Toyota Corolla Verso 1.6 VVT-i T2 5dr Colbolt Blue Met 16k miles	£10110	£10000	£110
08 08 Vauxhall Astra 1.6T 16V SRi 3dr Black 18523 miles	£10750	£9500	£1250
07 57 Vauxhall Astra 1.8 Elite 16v 140 5dr BEIGE 18632 miles	£7765	£7500	£265
08 08 Vauxhall Astra 1.9 CDTi 8V SXi [120] 3dr STAR SILVER 24411 miles	£8820	£8200	£620
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07 07 Vauxhall Zafira 1.9 CDTi Design [150] 5dr [Euro 4] Grey 44k miles	£9355	£9000	£355
08 08 Volkswagen Touran 2.0 TDI DPF Sport 5dr Silver 22134 miles	£14900	£14500	£400
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blowin' in the Wind

Sunny Coupé – another car that looked as though the back half had been flattened by an elephant.

I was told many times too that blokes should only drive such a feminine car in disguise, though heavy shades donned as part of that disguise could persuade you the Wind pays tribute to the 60/70s Lotus Europa that, coincidentally, mostly featured Renault engines.

The whimsy is quickly shattered though; a pity because we now come to the bit where the Wind does live up to the intended interpretation of its name and you simply enjoy the drive.

The car is a spin-off from Renault's Twingo baby hatchback, styled and tweaked up by the French marque's Renaultsport tuning arm.

Engine choice is the Twingo's mad little 99bhp turbocharged 1.2-litre or the 133bhp 1.6-litre unblown unit of our test car. The latter is marginally faster, taking 9.2 seconds to reach 62mph but, having tested the other unit in the Twingo itself, I would argue there isn't much in it and most buyers will save their cash and go for the turbo.

What comes as standard either way is the Wind's on-road poise and point-and-shoot ability, although this is a car that will be bought for posing, despite the good work done on the driving experience.

The steering is direct and the front-driven chassis tenacious. Coupled with an engine that can be and asks to be revved hard, I enjoyed a terrific – and deserted – favourite top-down route across Romney Marsh on an autumnal sunny day.

The engine roared its head off, of course, but the real surprise was how well the sporty chassis handles the bumps and thumps of roads still scarred by the winter of 2009-10.

And there are further elements of practicality; even with the roof folded, the boot is large for this class of car and I can almost imagine Renault sticking batteries in the back for a future electric Wind – would anyone bet against wind turbines being in the ads?

The cabin is fairly short of stowage though, with minimal door pockets, so the driver must stash her handbag behind one of the seats if she is carrying a passenger.

And she won't like the exterior door handles either; I have it on good authority that these will play merry hell with the manicure.

Our flagship Collection model had the leather and heated seats pack (£950) and sporty touches such as the alloy pedals, leather-clad wheel and gearshift, and a red visor crowning the clocks and gauges in the binnacle.

The quality of the cabin materials generally though is average for a car priced from £15,500, which is too close to the street cred and extra two seats of the BMW Mini Convertible and the classic two-seater style of the Mazda MX-5 – a proper grown-up roadster, which also has the option of a folding hardtop.

Yes, the Wind is an enigma – just like that Dylan line about the answer blowin' in it.

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DrivingPortfolio

RENAULT WIND 1.6 COLLECTION £18,200

Driving appeal (OUT OF FIVE)	★★★★★
Image	★★★
Space	★★★
Value	★★★
Running costs	★★★★
Reliability	★★★★
How green?	★★★
Road tax	£155/year
Best rival	Vauxhall Tigra

TheVerdict

DON'T LIKE: the underwhelming cabin and the wise cracks

NOT SURE: it can find favour with the male half of the population

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*VAT reduction (based on the VAT rate applicable at 25th May 2010) available on all Fabia models except for vRS and on all Octavia and all Roomster models. Prices & offers correct at time of going to press. We reserve the right to amend or withdraw offers without prior notice. This advert supercedes any previously advertised offers. Pictures for illustration purposes only. **Official fuel consumption in mpg for the Skoda range: Urban 19.2 (14.7) – 53.3 (5.3). Extra Urban 36.2 (7.8) – 83.1 (3.4), Combined 27.7 (10.2) – 68.9 (4.1). CO2 emissions (g/km) Skoda range: 109–237.**

ALFA ROMEO

147, 1.9 JTD 16v MULTIJET LUSSO, 2005, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player diesel electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering tonneau cover remote central locking, grey, 51447 miles, £5000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

147, 1.9 JTD 16v MULTIJET LUSSO, 2005, abs brakes air con alloys cd player diesel electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags tonneau cover remote central locking, grey, 51447 miles, £5000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

147, 1.9 JTD 16v MULTIJET LUSSO, 2005, abs brakes air con alloys cd player diesel electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering tonneau cover remote central locking, grey, 51447 miles, £5000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

159, 2.4 JTDM LUSSO, 2007, abs brakes air con alloys cd player diesel electric windows immobiliser metallic paint power steering remote central locking remote audio controls, black, 28347 miles, £11000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

AUDI

A3, 1.9 SPORTBACK TDi, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cruise control diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering tonneau cover traction control remote central locking remote audio controls, silver, 22065 miles, £11000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

A3, 1.6, 2010, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering traction control remote central locking, silver, 8367 miles, £16000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

A3, 2.0 T FSI S line DSG, 2006, abs brakes alloy wheels cd player drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering sports seats traction control trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points adjustable steering column body coloured bumpers rear headrests 3x3 point rear seat belts heated door mirrors height adj drivers seat, grey, 84428 miles, £9250, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

BMW

1 SERIES, 116i SPORT, 2006, abs brakes alloy wheels cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint power steering remote central locking remote audio controls, blue, 24123 miles, £9000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

1 SERIES, 120d Sport, 2006, abs brakes alloy wheels drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering single cd player traction control front parking sensors, black, 44450 miles, £11000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 330 Ci SPORT, 2003, alarm fitted alloy wheels electric windows multiple airbags reverse parking aid remote central locking front armrest rear armrest heated door mirrors, grey, 73000 miles, £8000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 328 Ci, 2000, abs brakes air con alloys cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering trip computer remote central locking adjustable steering column height adj drivers seat, red, 87500 miles, £4000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 330d M Sport, 2008, abs brakes alarm fitted alloys auto bluetooth car kit cd player climate control cruise control diesel electric windows front fog lights full service history heated seats immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid sports seats traction control remote central locking remote audio controls adjustable steering column heated door mirrors height adj drivers seat, metallic silver, 45644 miles, £22500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 318i ES, 2003, abs brakes air conditioning cd player drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering deactivation switch remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, grey, 32000 miles, £6500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 3.0 330 Ci SPORT, 2002, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint power steering traction control remote central locking remote audio controls, silver, 91030 miles, £6000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 325ise auto, 2003, orient blue metallic with grey cloth interior, 85376 miles, £4850, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

5 SERIES, 525ise, 2003, silver metallic with black leather, 93000 miles, £4850, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

5 SERIES, 545ise auto, 2005, green metallic with beige dakota sport leather, 73500 miles, £10985, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

X3, Sport, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows heated seats immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power fold mirrors power steering reverse parking aid, grey, 42165 miles, £13850, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

X3, Sport, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows heated seats immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power fold mirrors power steering reverse parking aid, grey, 42165 miles, £13850, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

X3, Sport, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows heated seats immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power fold mirrors power steering reverse parking aid, grey, 42165 miles, £13850, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

X5, Sport, 2003, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering satellite navigation, topaz, 59113 miles, £12000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

X5, 3.0i, 2003, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering trip computer remote central locking roof bars electric sunroof adjustable steering column body coloured bumpers 3x3 point rear seat belts heated door mirrors height adj drivers seat, silver, 69000 miles, £9000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

CHEVROLET

AVEO, LT, 2009, cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering, grey, 8073 miles, £6500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

AVEO, LT, 2009, cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering, grey, 8073 miles, £6500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

KALOS, 1.2 S, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning cd player electric windows immobiliser metallic paint power steering remote central locking isofix child seat points, silver, 27000 miles, £3000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

LACETTI, 1.6 SX, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint power steering front passenger air bag deactivation switch remote central locking isofix child seat points, silver, 28000 miles, £4500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CITROEN

BERLINGO, Multispace Desire HDi, cv55ojf, air conditioning, parking sensor, electric mirrors, electric windows, twin sunroofs, twin air bags, colour coded body, central locking, immobiliser, cd player, beige metallic, 40000 miles, £5999, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 600 LX HDi Refrigerated Chiller Freezer, kr07xoy, side load door, cd player, electric windows, electric mirrors, immobiliser, remote central locking, grp lined. gah equipment. electric standby available if required. over fifty fridge vans in stock. www.BHRV.co.uk, white, 27000 miles, £7595, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 600 LXD, gj53hhk, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, ply-lined, barn doors, adjustable steering column, power steering, abs, air bag, radio, white, 78000 miles, £2495, Sittingbourne, 01795 403295 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 1.6i 16v XTR, 2008, sahara gold, 7500 miles, £8500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, HDi lx, 2010, abs brakes immobiliser power steering, grey, 10 miles, £9900, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

C1, VT (Price Plus delivery and Metalic Paint), 2010, -, 10 miles, £5559, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

C1, Vibe, 2006, abs brakes central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering single cd player, grey, 31592 miles, £5000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

C1, 1.4, 2008, grey, 6978 miles, £11200, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

C2, 1.6, 2008, black, 50 miles, £12000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

C2, SX, 2004, air conditioning central locking drivers airbag immobiliser multiple airbags power steering remote central locking, silver, 30000 miles, £4000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

C2, 16v, 2008, alarm fitted cd player central locking electric windows, gold, 50 miles, £10500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

C2, 16v, 2008, silver, 55 miles, £12980, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

C2, 1.6, 2008, red, 50 miles, £12000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

C3, 16v, 2008, green, 55 miles, £12980, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

C3, 16v, 2008, abs brakes cd player drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights half leather trim, blue, 55 miles, £12980, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

C3, 1.6, 2008, blue, 50 miles, £12000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

C4, 16v, 2008, red, 55 miles, £20500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

C4, 1.6, 2008, black, 50 miles, £19000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

C4, 1.6, 2008, blue, 50 miles, £19000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

DODGE

AVENGER, CRD SE, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted cd player central locking electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering single cd player tinted glass twin airbags remote central locking body coloured bumpers rear headrests height adj drivers seat, mica black, 32930 miles, £7300, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

NITRO, CRD SXT, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control cruise control diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering traction control trip computer twin airbags remote central locking, red, 3500 miles, £13000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

FERRARI

F430, F1, 2006, solid rosso corsa, 2239 miles, £83500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

FIAT

500, Sport (Start Stop), 2009, solid bossanova white, 25948 miles, £10370, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

500, Lounge, 2010, white, 10127 miles, £11000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

500, 1.2, 2008, abs brakes cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser, red, 55 miles, £14000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

BRAVO, SX, 1996, central locking electric windows immobiliser, white, 85000 miles, £4000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

BRAVO, DYNAMIC T-JET, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning cd player central locking power steering, blue, 15185 miles, £6700, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, 2007, central locking drivers airbag electric windows power steering single cd player remote central locking, blue, 28885 miles, £5000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

FORD

C-MAX, 1.6 Zetec, 2007, tonic, 9000 miles, £8995, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 1.6 Zetec, 2007, tonic, 14000 miles, £8995, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 1.6 Style, 2008, avalon, 8000 miles, £8995, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4TDCi Style +, 2009, tango, 3400 miles, £10495, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.25 Style Climate, 2008, moondust silver, 42400 miles, £5995, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 Zetec Blue, 2008, moondust silver, 14000 miles, £6995, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.25 Zetec, 2009, avalon, 9900 miles, £9995, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.25 Style Climate, 2008, amethyst, 6400 miles, £7495, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

HONDA

CIVIC, Type R GT, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser multiple airbags power steering single cd player trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, silver, 16800 miles, £14000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

CIVIC, 1.8SE, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking electric windows full service history metallic paint, royal blue pearl, 34869 miles, £8000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

CR-V, 2.2EX, 2006, 4x4 abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control diesel electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors satellite navigation panoramic sunroof, black, 80563 miles, £9250, Maidstone, 08448 759296 (TRADE)

CR-V, ES, 2007, 4x4 abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history metallic paint power fold mirrors power steering sliding rear seats trip computer remote central locking adjustable steering column 3x3 point rear seat belts height adj drivers seat, blue, 26000 miles, £14500, Tunbridge Wells, 08448 759297 (TRADE)

CR-V, ES, 2007, 4x4 abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history metallic paint power fold mirrors power steering sliding rear seats trip computer remote central locking adjustable steering column 3x3 point rear seat belts height adj drivers seat, blue, 26000 miles, £14500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

JAZZ, I-DSI SPORT, 2007, abs brakes cd player central locking electric windows power steering, standard colour, 42773 miles, £7000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

JAZZ, 1.4ES, 2010, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking electric windows full service history metallic paint power fold mirrors, cerulean blue met, 2789 miles, £11500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

MG

TF, 1.8 135 16v, 2004, silver, 50000 miles, £4000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

TF, 1.8 135 16v, 2004, silver, 50000 miles, £4000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

TF, [no trim], 04, excellent condition. 2 lady owners.taxed and mot.central locking. alarm/immobiliser. radio/cassette. lovely car. blue, 30000 miles, £349000, Pauline Martin, 01843 866052 (PRIVATE)

TF, 1.8 135 16v, 2004, silver, 50000 miles, £4000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

ZR, 105, 2005, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels central locking drivers airbag immobiliser power steering sports seats, green, 57395 miles, £3100, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

ZR, 105, 2005, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels central locking drivers airbag immobiliser power steering sports seats, green, 57395 miles, £3100, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

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2001 Y Reg SAAB 9-5 2.0T SE, 102,941 miles, 4 Doors, Automatic, Saloon, Petrol. Metallic Grey, 4 Owners. Heated door mirrors, ABS, Radio/CD, Rear headrests, Cruise control, Folding rear seats, Alloy wheels, Immobiliser, Side airbags, Leather upholstery, Front electric windows, Electric door mirrors, Rear electric windows, Remote central locking, Drivers airbag, Trip computer, Leather seat trim, Air conditioning, Radio/Cassette, Traction control, Body coloured bumpers, PAS, Climate Control, Service indicator, Electric mirrors, Remote locking.. ..... **NOW £2,795**

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1998 R Reg SAAB 9-5 2.0T, 4 Doors, Manual, Saloon, Petrol, 116,963 miles, Metallic Red, 2 Owners. , Radio/CD, Service indicator, Child locks, ABS, Air conditioning, Alloy wheels, Anti theft system, Central locking, Child seats, Colour coding - Body, Computer, Cruise control, Driver airbag, Full Electric Pack, Heated seats, Leather seats, Metallic paintwork, Multi function steering wheel, Navigation system, Park distance control, Passenger airbag, Power assisted steering, Radio, Rear armrest, Remote locking, Side airbags, Sideskirts, Spoiler, Sunroof, Telephone, Tinted glass, Traction control. ...**£1,695**

R Reg SAAB 9-3 2.0i, 5 Doors, Manual, Hatchback, Petrol, 1998, 66,678 miles, Black, 1 Owner. Rear wiper, Trip computer, Cloth upholstery, Immobiliser, Part Service History, Remote locking, Service indicator, Electric door mirrors, ABS, Adjustable seats, Adjustable steering column/wheel, Air conditioning, Alloy wheels, Anti theft system, CD, Central locking, Electric mirrors, Electric windows, Foglights, Head restraints, Headlight washers, Heated seats, Metallic paintwork, Passenger airbag, Power assisted steering, Rear armrest, Side airbags, Steel wheels, Sunroof, Tinted glass, Wheel trims...**NOW £1,695**

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INSIDE THIS WEEK

It was our inaugural Business Week Live show on Wednesday and we have four pages of coverage from an event designed to help Kent firms and entrepreneurs map out their strategy for 2011 and beyond. Feedback about the event and Kent's options was relentlessly positive and refreshing. Check it out here and at www.businessforkent.co.uk

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Seize cuts opportunity, Howard tells our show

KOS media BUSINESS WEEK Live

FORMER Conservative leader Lord Howard says Kent's businesses and would-be entrepreneurs have been given a golden opportunity by the axing of half a million UK public sector jobs, ***writes Steve Loader***.

He told the inaugural Archant KOS Media Business Week Live show the cuts, announced at last month's comprehensive spending review (CSR), would see much of the lost work and jobs switching to the private sector through outsourcing from both central and local government.

He told delegates: "We are already seeing remarkable decisions taken by some local authorities who have, in effect, said, 'we're going to decide what should be done and we're going to finance what should be done, but we're not actually going to do it ourselves – we're going to look at people who can do it more efficiently'.

"We are going to find that an increasing trend and, therefore, something which will enable you [in business] to do things you haven't been able to do before."

The one-time MP for Folkestone and Hythe, who stood down this year and now sits in the Lords as Baron Howard of Lympne, complimented organisers on the timing of the event at the County Showground, near Maidstone, exactly three weeks after the CSR and as firms planned for 2011. He knew many firms will have held back on crucial decisions until they knew the outcome of CSR, but added: "As you know only too well, every challenge presents an opportunity and you will have been working out how you can make the most of those opportunities.

GUEST SPEAKER: Lord Howard makes his Business Week Live opening address at Detling on Wednesday

"You don't need me to tell you we live in difficult times, that the challenges are enormous and that, to some extent, we are moving into uncharted territory because it's a long time since a Government had to take decisions as tough as those announced in the CSR. But all these challenges do represent opportunities and this event is designed to enable you to see how best you can translate those opportunities into success for your business."

Conference presenter Julie Maddocks then asked Lord Howard about Prime Minister David Cameron's Big Society vision, which some have dismissed as PR and spin.

"It's certainly not," he responded. "It's a recognition of the extremely important role organisations and people outside government can play in delivering the kind of society we want to live in.

"There are so many examples of that. Just the day before yesterday I was visiting one of the hospices in east Kent. The Prime Minister himself has said hospices are one of the real manifestations of what he means by his Big Society and is an area where we lead the world, and we do that on a basis where government really plays a pretty small part – contributing on average 32 per cent of funding for hospices.

"The rest comes from local charitable sources and an enormous number of volunteers who work in hospices. That's the kind of thing that David Cameron means by the Big Society and it does provide opportunities that maybe business hasn't had before or has been unable to take advantage of."

'Proper pricing must prevail at port'

CROSS-Channel operators must "get real" on pricing soon, says Port of Dover chief executive Bob Goldfield (pictured).

He was responding to suggestions that, with ferry companies struggling and Dover-Calais business depressed, it was not a good time for the port to seek government permission to privatise in order to borrow cash for an expansion that may not be needed for some time.

But he argued it was "exactly the right time" to start getting the infrastructure in place that ferry lines had been asking for – expansion of current berthing and the all-new Terminal 2 – and as the ferries and the rival Channel Tunnel faced up to the reality of pricing.

Mr Goldfield said: "You get this situation where a car and four people are being carried across the Channel – either under or over it – for less than £30. That's uneconomic pricing and has been going on for quite a time."

In a swipe at the 'get rich quick' private equity firms that prospered during the UK boom and were now sweating on highly-leveraged investments, Mr Goldfield was also convinced that quality investors could be found instead for the port and its long term strategy: "What we are looking for is people with a long-term view, good stable money - the likes of pension funds and very good infrastructure funds that are prepared to be in for the long term.

"We know this business will continue to grow. As we get further out of recession that growth will continue at a high rate and we've got to be able to build the infrastructure when it's needed.

"That is the crucial problem. At the moment we are looking at spending £300-400 million in the next 15 years compared with the £120m we have spent in the last 10.

"And we can't borrow money – the Government won't allow us to."

He was also irritated by arguments that the port – seen as a symbolic as well as valuable national asset – could be bought by foreign money.

"I don't understand that phrase, 'foreign money'," he said. "Money doesn't have a nationality and it hasn't had a nationality for the past 20 to 30 years, since the big bang in the City.

"People sit at home saying this is not a very good idea, while taking electricity from a French company, gas from a French company, water from a foreign company, they go on holiday from an airport owned by foreign money, they go on a ferry owned by a foreign institution. Riddled through Britain – quite rightly – there is money from all parts of the world and from all kinds of institutions and that's the way finance works."

Dismissing allegations that he and his management team were set on privatisation to generate multi-million-pound windfall payments for themselves, Mr Goldfield said they were driven by the desire to modernise and expand the business along the lines of other sector successes such as the Scottish-based Forth Ports and also Peel Ports, which has spent 20 years building a wide-ranging portfolio of harbours and airports, including Medway Ports.

"They all started out being fairly small enterprises and expanded to become much bigger enterprises and much more valuable. We would see ourselves doing something similar."

• For more on the Port of Dover story, see page 24 of this week's issue. A full transcript of the Bob Goldfield interview and Julie Maddocks' video report 'Dover port row' can be viewed at www.businessforkent.co.uk.

Comment

AT THE risk of inviting that famous misquote from the Profumo scandal: "Well he would say that, wouldn't he?", our first Business Week Live was a big success.

Re-bookings for next year's follow-up started not long after Lord Howard's opening speech, in which he praised the event's timing as a tonic after the austerity measures of the comprehensive spending review – exactly three weeks earlier – and as companies began planning for 2011.

And there was a definite whiff of optimism in the air. Cynics may say that only the most confident firms are going to invest time and effort on a trade and networking event at the moment.

Those who are struggling will have hunkered down over reduced order books and simply wondered what next year will bring.

But isn't that the point?

We've heard many of our most successful business people say that doing business in the Noughties was an easy ride and it's when the going gets tough that the tough get going.

Wondering about 2011 rather than taking positive action is not what the tough will be doing. Chances are they will not only be planning for 2011, but also 2012 and beyond.

As editor of Business Week, I need to keep my ear to the ground and might be expected to pick up on any gloom and doom. But I haven't heard much of that – and when I do it's usually balanced by a good dash of optimism.

Just as well, because I always worry that while we seem to be rubbish at football, we have a vice-like grip on the World Cup for whingeing – talking up our deficiencies and embracing depression.

So, if we appear to be losing our grip on that particular trophy, I'll be leading the cheers. And I hope we raised a few cheers for ourselves at Archant KOS Media with Business Week Live.

Not only did it herald what I hope will be a good year for Kent business, but also marked the culmination of some eight months' work since we launched Business Week itself and its associated email bulletins, and online news and video streams.

BUSINESS EDITOR STEVE LOADER

Cash uplift for lingerie firm couple

ALL SMILES: Andrew and Sarah Charlesworth of Benenden-based Intimates Lingerie flanked by Lloyds TSB's Chris Wardle (left) and Stephen Taylor

INTIMATES Lingerie, which sources and supplies lingerie products to some of the UK's biggest retailers, aims to generate £4 million turnover in 2011.

This is a £500k increase on 2010 and the Benenden-based firm unveiled its ambitions after securing a new finance stream via Lloyds TSB.

The firm was established in 1997 by husband and wife Andrew and Sarah Charlesworth, who had years of experience working for a hosiery company.

They used this to develop business with the likes of Harrods, John Lewis and Debenhams, and are sole distributor for Spanx control products in the UK.

The firm employs 24, having added six new staff in the last three months. There are plans to take on another couple of employees in early 2011.

The company transferred its business banking to Lloyds TSB Commercial two years ago and has now gained a six-figure invoice discounting facility to fuel expansion. Andrew said: "We've worked hard to build our client base and supply leading retailers with quality products from across the world."

Stephen Taylor, Lloyds TSB Commercial Finance regional manager, said: "Intimates Lingerie has become a business success story, which speaks volumes for the experience and planning of Andrew and Sarah."

'Time to slash red tape'

JO JAMES, chief executive of the influential Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce, has called on the Government to slash red tape in response to its own call for smaller firms to rebuild the UK economy, ***writes Ed Hill***.

JO JAMES

"Red tape affects businesses of all sizes," she said. "There are too many impediments to business growth and development and it would be tedious to list them all."

But she was cautiously optimistic about help from the new business-led Local Enterprise Partnership created by the coalition Government for Kent and neighbouring counties Essex and East Sussex.

"If change can present opportunities, then I feel that the Kent, Greater Essex and East Sussex LEP should be in a position to maximise those opportunities," she said.

"Provided LEPs operate as conceived, with a major element of input from business, then I believe we can look forward to a positive future. A business support situation that is business-led can create great opportunities. Business development must be driven by the needs of business."

But she added: "There is no doubt that cutbacks and the restructuring of business support will have wide-ranging effects. The running down of regional development agencies and the introduction of LEPs is another crucial aspect with currently uncertain outcomes.

"It is highly likely we are entering a period of significant change in business and commerce and we really have little idea how it will pan out. That uncertainty is probably what constitutes the biggest challenge. How we respond to it is something we have to learn as it unfolds."

However, she was adamant that business should dismiss any movement to leave the EU. She said: "One of the many effects of the changing economy might well be a downturn in domestic demand and the EU represents a whole new market available to local business, which has been slow to exploit that potential.

"Perhaps we have been concentrating too much on the market on our doorstep. A strong EU represents a strong market opportunity, and we should all work towards it."

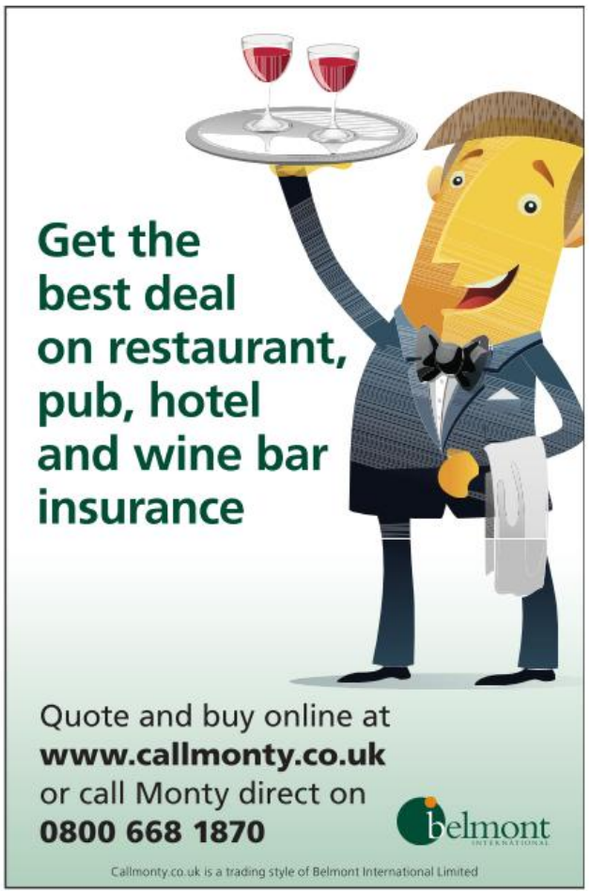
And she was also excited by the growth potential identified for Ashford, adding: "Growth of any kind must be advantageous to business. Targeted growth areas work in everybody's favour, because surrounding areas are drawn into the increased trading opportunities associated with commercial and residential development.

"There is a caveat, however. Economic growth should be allowed to happen where there is a natural demand and facility for it.

"My hope is our new LEP will be able to react to a growth pattern business identifies as viable."

To view this clip, log on @ www.businessforkent.co.uk

Julie Maddocks visits Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce to talk to Jo James about the changing face of growth town Ashford



KOS media BUSINESS WEEK Live

online: www.businessforkent.co.uk

Live show helps Kent business to reflect on where it's going

SAID AND DONE

"TODAY'S been fantastic. It's been great for me to meet other businesses which are exhibiting and it's opened up a window of opportunity for us. The turnout here is definitely a positive sign of things to come.

"With the public sector being cut so much I would like to think those in the private sector are ready to lift themselves up and take on the challenge of creating those extra jobs and opportunities.

"It's risky, but I think it's good to take that risk sometimes."

Sezen Zeki – Channel Chamber of Commerce

"THIS has been a great exercise for us. I have met and talked to lots of people and secured four pretty solid leads – I'm not sure I gained two from the previous business show I attended here. And I think the timing has been great."

Phil Beavan – Innovation & Growth

AFTER listening to the conference slot about winning business from the public sector: "It was useful to hear what the experts had to say.

"It convinced me that my particular company cannot compete in this sector, but it has saved me a lot of work I might have done and I'm gaining a lot from the show generally."

Jacqui Seed – Xpert Envelopes

"WE'VE seen a fundamental change in the office equipment and furniture sector – the future is less about people buying equipment and more about leasing – and the way offices are laid out is also changing, so this has been a fantastic opportunity for me and the team to communicate those changes."

Adrian Ponting – Kent Office Solutions

By **STEVE LOADER**
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

OUR first ever Business Week Live offered a unique opportunity for Kent's hard-pressed business community to run a health check as it plans for the crucial year of 2011.

The diagnosis was good. Despite the coalition Government's recent comprehensive spending review and a rash of conflicting readings from economic barometers like property prices and the stock market, those attending the show felt positive about prospects.

After hearing a welcome from Lord Howard (see our Business Week front page) they also appreciated tips and advice from conference and panel sessions and a clinic run by the Kent Business School.

One of the speakers, Maidstone-based management guru Neil Annis of ThinkGap, said: "I go to all the trade shows, but I have to say that the quality of the people you have attracted here is superb.

"I have made contacts and secured leads I couldn't have hoped to get in front of through the usual channels."

The show was arranged across 12 business zones, enabling those on a tight timetable to quickly find those of the 128 stands they wished to target.

One firm even chose the show to launch itself and a revolutionary new product for the UK market.

SEAL THE DEAL: Sharing information

John Lineham, MD of Dartford-based CleanTeck, said: "The show was perfect timing for us to set-up and launch the range of smart fluids we have sourced from Germany.

"With so many applications – from impermeable coatings for mobile phones and laptops to protecting the fabric of buildings – taking a stand allowed us to truly demonstrate to the many other companies exhibiting and to people visiting the show."

Archant KOS Media's commercial director and organiser of the show, Christine Davidson, said: "We couldn't have hoped for a better launch and the reaction from exhibitors and visitors was overwhelmingly positive. Timing it soon after the Government's spending review, and at the budget planning stage for most businesses played a crucial part I'm sure. But people appreciated the format, a unique mix of informative conference speakers and panels, with workshops, a drop-in clinic and a relaxed environment providing plenty of opportunity to network, renew contacts and look at co-operative ventures – the hot topic with many organisations at the moment.

"And the proof of the pudding? With just shy of 1,000 attendees and exhibitors booking their stand already for next year's event, business confidence is clearly building and so is the appetite in the market for a vibrant and fresh new event like Business Week Live.

"I would like to thank all of our supporters, partners, speakers, exhibitors and visitors for their involvement and look forward to working with them on Business Week Live 2011."

NETWORKING: All the right connections

WINNING WAYS: Maidstone-based legal practice Whitehead Monckton fielded a top team on their stand and the table football was a real show-stopper for many passing delegates

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KOS media BUSINESS WEEK Live

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On the wild side

AN INTEREST in unusual and exotic animals gave Ben Bartlett the chance to set up his own business.

With the help of the Kent Foundation, which provides expertise and practical help to business start-ups, his unique business, Claws and Jaws, brings wildlife of the world into parties and classrooms.

Pythons, lizards and birds of prey are all part of his menagerie, which has proved popular with young people across the county. And he quickly caught the eye at Business Week Live, where he was often cradling an African royal python snake, as pictured above.

"Loads of people have been stopping to see the python," he said. "Everybody likes animals.

"A couple of years ago I realised my hobby of looking after unusual animals could be made into a business," he said.

"I thought it was a brilliant idea and with help from the Kent Foundation I managed to set it up. Children's parties are the sort of events I take the creatures to and they are extremely popular.

"It is also educational for young people – they have the chance to learn about creatures they would never normally encounter, certainly not at such close quarters."

Mr Bartlett, from Sittingbourne, said events such as the show enabled him to meet other young local entrepreneurs, many of them on the Kent Foundation's show stand.

Lively debate, wise words, good advice

LISTENING: Wonderful Creative Agency MD Dan Maudhub gave an inspirational talk: 'Win the war for talent – getting the best staff'

ON MESSAGE: Tim Allen (right), group MD of Ashford engineering firm MJ Allen, answered questions in the panel session about 'Winning business in the public sector today'

BUSINESS Week Live featured a wide-ranging conference programme covering both traditional and cutting-edge topics.

They ranged from securing investment to recruiting the best staff, and from inspirational management to winning business from the public sector, but also advising delegates on how to make the most of new media such as Facebook and Twitter.

Hosted by Julie Maddocks, the session closed with a lively debate about the role business might play in the Big Society envisaged by David Cameron.

Currying flavour

YOUNG entrepreneur Jay Pitrola is bringing a genuine taste of the Indian subcontinent to homes in Medway and beyond.

His company, Desibox, gives people the chance to sample real cooking from a part of the world whose cuisine Brits have come to love.

"Twelve months ago I was made redundant and that's when I realised I had the chance to start up on my own," said Mr Pitrola. "I know the UK loves curry, but I also knew that the food on sale in restaurants is not really the proper article.

JAY PITROLA

"After all, curry as a concept was created by the Indians for the British."

With help from the Kent Foundation, he set up in business.

"I now offer curries and other Indian foods to homes – cooked the way Indians cook at home," he said. "Rather than just cook the meat and add the sauces to it, as almost all restaurants do, the whole lot is cooked and marinated together so the spices and sauces and all the other ingredients blend properly."

Stuart Tanton of the Kent Foundation said his group was keen to back young people with ideas.

"We can help with starting up and offer grants and support," he said. "Today we have brought a group of people to Business Week Live to show the spirit and enthusiasm there is out there among our young people.

"There is a lot of talk about how difficult it is in business at the moment but we are here to help."

A festive world

DICKENS World in Chatham set up a special seasonal display for Business Week Live.

"We want to get the message across that we are doing something special this year," said spokeswoman Sarah Hirsch.

Christmas is the busiest season for the attraction, which commemorates the work of Charles Dickens, who based many of his stories in and around Medway.

"This month we are launching our Winter Wonderland. There will be real snow, even though the event is being held indoors.

SARAH HIRSCH

"There will be elves, log cabins and a mini ice rink and of course Santa will be putting in an appearance."

English export

GLYNIS RUMLEY

ENGLISH from England is an innovative programme set up online to teach the language to young people.

It uses sounds, images and the printed word to give people the basics of the language in situations such as the home, school or meeting and greeting friends.

Kent-based designer Glynis Rumley (pictured above) said she is looking at

regions across the world to adopt the programme – including the growing markets of India and China.

"I have used Business Week Live as an opportunity to show what I have created," she said. "I really do want to expand as I think this can help people across the world."

However, she added that few schools in other parts of the world yet have the technology necessary, so the key markets at present were closer to home, such as Spain.

Proud tradition

ASHFORD has a proud history of manufacturing in the engineering field.

Although that sector is much reduced, one company still makes groundbreaking products – MJ Allen.

The family-owned group, established in 1958, has interests in many sectors of the metalworking business including casting, machining, sheet metal and architectural work, as well as providing parts for the automotive industry.

Derek Goodger from the company said: "We have the last foundry in Kent producing casting on a large scale."

One of the latest products the company is successfully selling is an advanced four-wheel-drive transmission system that it provides for Ford. The clever gizmo is fitted to the company's standard model Transit so it can be used on rough terrain, automatically providing drive for each wheel when needed.

Mr Goodger said: "These are very popular with customers such as utility companies who use the vehicles for maintenance.

DEREK GOODGER

At the moment we produce 60 of these a week for Ford."

The company, based at Cobbs Wood industrial estate, also makes casings for turbochargers supplied to German lorry-maker MAN for diesel and marine engines.

The company also has its Nottingham-based National Auto Parts division that provides items such as brake discs, pads and clutch plates for the car industry.

At a time when the UK is looking to expand its manufacturing sector, MJ Allen can still draw on the skills to produce advanced engineering products.

As well as producing parts for the motor industry, it also works in the defence sector and makes tooling and precision gauges. However, Mr Goodger says finding people to work in the sector is increasingly difficult.

He said: "Government over the years has talked about apprenticeships, but they are just not there in the same way they used to be. People go to university but they need to do more to help them get the skills for our kind of industry after that."

A digital future

WITH more and more mobile media devices being launched on the market, such as Apple's iPad, companies that can exploit new technology should do well.

One Ashford-based company at the forefront of developing the kind of

SEAN SEYMOUR

software ideal for these products is Pagesuite, which has pioneered many of its products through Archant KOS Media – publisher of this newspaper.

Sean Seymour, from Pagesuite, said: "These new devices are great for us and for media companies. The screens are designed with books and newspapers in mind, so you have the same clarity as if the paper was in front of you."

The iPad offers all the benefits of the internet in a user-friendly mobile device with a large screen.

Pagesuite's page-turning software, which simulates reading a newspaper, is ideal for iPad-type devices which are also being produced by manufacturers such as Samsung.

Archant KOS Media was one of the first companies to develop its own application with Pagesuite for the iPad, so the newspaper group's stories can be read on screen anywhere in the world.

Mr Seymour said: "Not everyone likes a page-turning format, so we also offer other options, but I think the page-turning will be something people will always want. It's what we've used since we stopped carving things in stone."

The technology also creates another massive market for advertisers.

Mr Seymour said: "I like print and I think there will always be a demand for it. I still buy certain magazines myself, but I think in time it will be a bit like how vinyl records are now, mainly of interest to dedicated users."

However, Mr Seymour was less sure about whether paywalls such as those set up for The Times newspaper website would be commercially successful.

He said: "I think media companies should charge for specialist content, but they're saving a lot on distribution costs compared with print. Their adverts are being seen by more people around the world. It surprises me that some companies charge a premium for their normal content. Digital media is not cannibalising print. It is creating new revenues through different ways of distributing the content."

Toughing it out

THORLEY Taverns is optimistic about the future – looking forward to Christmas this year and beyond.

Based primarily in Thanet, the pub and hotel business admitted the market was tough but remained positive, according to Mac Towe and Chris Dell, manning the firm's Business Week Live show stand.

Mr Towe said: "Overall, the sector is a tough place right now, but we are looking at it positively. Bookings for Christmas are looking good, as they are for 2011."

Details of two of the company's properties, Broadstairs Pavilion, and the Fayreness Hotel in Kingsgate, were on display and attracted plenty of attention from visitors. Mr Dell said: "Overall, we are all fighting for business and it

MAC TOWE

is a very competitive market. Events like this are invaluable in many ways when it comes to getting your brand out into the market place."

Visitors to Business Week Live said they felt it was a sign of increased confidence within the leisure industry that so many had taken stands. The overriding feeling was that the standards offered by hotels, accommodation and catering in the county was high and resilient, as local attractions continued to be popular with visitors from overseas and the rest of the UK.

Archant KOS Media's Business Week Live reporting team: JAMES ALEXANDRE, NICK AMES, ED HILL and STEVE LOADER

To view this clip, log on @ www.businessforkent.co.uk

Steve Loader reports from Wednesday's Business Week Live show at the county showground, Detling, near Maidstone

KOS media BUSINESS WEEK Live

online: www.businessforkent.co.uk

Dan's expert eye looking to future of networking

THERE has been huge growth in businesses using social networking sites such as Facebook, MySpace, Bebo and Twitter and that was a development explored in depth at Business Week Live.

Dan Maudhub

But experts say many companies are not aware of how best to reap the benefits of online communication messaging. Dan Maudhub, of Maidstone-based Wonderful Creative Agency, said there were still misconceptions about the best way to utilise online sites and these were addressed and best practice explained during his inspirational talk, which was geared to business looking to the second decade of the 21st century and beyond.

He was one of the most popular speakers at Business Week Live, which attracted experts from many fields. Mr Maudhub said: "Business can get so much more out of social networking sites. It is interesting to look at the value of sites such as Facebook and Twitter when it comes to business. In recent years they have had an enormous impact and we have seen a great change in the way business is being conducted.

"They affect the relationship between a company and its clients, customer service and the two-way conversations which takes place in any business relationship."

Mr Maudhub can offer advice from his own experience and knowledge of the social networking landscape to those who want to find out how spending time taking part in analysis and research can be of benefit.

"Businesses need to develop a greater awareness of how to make sites relevant to their needs," he said.

"Most companies do have a website – but how many are really aware of the potential that gives them?

"Events such as Business Week Live enable ideas to get across, businesses can learn from each other and that is so positive."

FAMOUS FACE: Lord Howard, Business Week Live's keynote speaker, meets Debbie Day (left) and Raakhee Khatri at the Archant KOS Media stand at Detling

A root and branch initiative

ENVIRONMENTAL responsibilities were high on the agenda at Business Week Live. Mark Regan (pictured right) of the World Clean Air Forest Initiative showed how companies can sponsor the fight against global warming in developing countries.

"Events like this are important when it comes to getting new ideas across," he said. "What we do is provide companies with the chance to help the ecology in countries such as Ethiopia. We provide a tree-planting kit for businesses which can buy them and give them out. For every one taken we use the money companies have given us to plant a tree elsewhere.

"So it's a winner for everyone. The companies can give out the planting kits – sometimes they are even branded with logos – and we will do our bit elsewhere in the world."

About 190,000 trees have been planted following the project's launch and it has been hailed as a great success by environmentalists.

He added: "Events such as this show how companies can give out things which have practical value, rather than just, say, pens."

unique business solutions

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KOS media BUSINESS WEEK Live IN BRIEF

BUSINESS can score with profile and foster the footballers of tomorrow according to the Kent County Football Association, which used Business Week Live to step up its hunt for sponsorship.

Head of marketing Lucy Majin said: "I think quite a few people have been surprised to see us here, but it was a golden opportunity to raise our profile with companies across the county who, in turn, may also be looking to raise their profile.

"Football is big in Kent, we have 45,000 people registered with affiliated teams and clubs – that's on top of all the unofficial games that take place.

"Patronage or sponsorship deals start from as little as £500 a year and can deliver serious profile as well as the satisfaction of nurturing talent."

ARCHITECTURE graduate Matt Hopkins has transferred those skills to the world of design for the internet.

The 23-year-old Smarden man began graphic design work for the Inter-Collegiate Christian Union and the sideline then took over.

He said: "When I started out I did do some advertising on Google but since then it has been word of mouth.

"I suppose everyone would say that is the best way to get business, but I am getting to the point where you see it starting to take off."

Asked if there was still enough demand for web design in a very competitive field, he said: "Things on the web get outdated very quickly. People are often redesigning elements of it and there is always new technology coming forward.

"But good design is not just about having all the fancy new things – sometimes being simple is best."

GOVERNMENT promises of a boom in green jobs are starting to bear fruit and one of the beneficiaries is Recoop in Folkestone.

Owner Lewis Cooper said: "We provide solar panels for homes and businesses. Anyone who generates their own electricity can earn money back using a feed-in tariff to the national grid.

"Not only will this reduce energy bills, it will also help the Government meet its CO2 targets and councils are becoming more accommodating to the idea of fitting panels on people's roofs.

"The technology is improving all the time and we have plenty of incentive from the Government so we aim to be the leaders in Kent and south-east England in providing such systems. We're also looking at going into thermal heating."

CREDO Group, a Lydd-based series of companies, has seen an increase in demand for its services including online criminal records bureau checks, a fostering agency and IT management.

David Burton of crbchecks.co.uk, which provides an application and verification process for charities and organisations, said: "This year we are averaging 175 checks a month, whereas this time last year it was 125. I'm attributing it to a lot of people having been made redundant or accepting early retirement and taken it upon themselves to set up in businesses.

"These business owners are maybe more inclined to make sure they do check the people they are employing.

"We're predominantly a service country now and those services bring us into contact with young people and the vulnerable, so by law we need to make sure we are doing these checks."

Fields of gold

FARMLAND has reached its highest value after percentage increases that have outstripped the pace of rises in gold prices.

By **STEVE LOADER**
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

But even at £5,800 a acre after a further 17 per cent hike over the past year, the influential Knight Frank Farmland Index questions whether it will now quickly smash through the psychologically important £6k barrier.

Doubt was prompted by a rise of just 0.8 per cent in the third quarter of 2010 – seen as a sign of caution in the face of the Government's austerity cuts – but Knight Frank's rural expert Andrew Shirley remained optimistic.

"The fact that farmland prices remain at record highs shows how resilient the market is and we believe the flattening seen in the past three months is a slowdown rather than the beginning of any significant decline.

"Prices are likely to start picking up again more quickly after spring 2011 when farmers actually begin to see the impact of higher cereal prices on the bottom line. Farmers remain the most active purchasers, accounting for 52 per cent of acquisitions, followed by 'lifestyle' buyers [27 per cent] and investors [11 per cent]."

Steve Colville, a partner and an agriculture and landed estate expert at Warners law practice in Tonbridge and Sevenoaks, agreed that the market was still buoyant.

He told Business Week: "The appreciation in UK farmland has been the biggest of any commodity virtually in the world. It's driven by supply and demand and, of course, the quality of that land and the location."

But he added this must be viewed against a 20-year history when the industry suffered major setbacks: plummeting prices on produce and livestock, early signs of climate change and the foot and mouth outbreak of 2001.

He said recovery could be attributed to the EU's single payment scheme (SPS) brought in to give farmers a subsidy for the land they held irrespective of whether they produced anything, but avoiding the wasteful over-production of the past. Steve Colville said this had encouraged farmers to look after and build their 'land banks', but added: "There's a lot of pressure on them now to produce for home consumption and it's still a hard life."

In his experience – Warners has a long-established portfolio of landed clients and added new ones as the industry has recovered – the buyers and sellers of land in Kent were almost exclusively farmers.

PRECIOUS: Farmland prices remain at record highs

"We are seeing a trend towards bigger farms buying out smaller ones," he said. "We are probably a long way from the 8,000-strong cattle 'factory farm' recently publicised in the USA – our typical dairy farm in Kent would be 150 – but there's no doubt the trend is towards bigger farms and economies of scale."

However, he stressed this did not always mean acquisition, since a lot of his work also came from farmers renting and leasing to and from each other or managing land or leasing it out for equestrian use.

"And many farmers are also diversifying," he said. "They are good business people. They may take some convincing sometimes about moving away from what they know, but they will put a lot of effort in.

"So we have seen some excellent conversion of farm buildings to create office units in locations where people want to work in a rural environment. Kent is a very attractive office relocation from London, for instance. Other farmers have converted buildings for holiday lets."

Meanwhile, other farming fare continues on the litigation front – usually handled by Mr Colville's fellow partner Robert Twining – and including boundary disputes, rights of way and straying animals.

Farm home conversions only part of the solution

GOVERNMENT plans to make it easier for farmers to convert farm buildings into houses is only part of the solution to relieve the shortage of affordable rural housing.

That is the Country Land and Business Association's (CLA) view of the proposed Home on the Farm scheme.

"The lack of affordable housing is a serious problem in rural areas, particularly in the South East, so it is good the Government is doing something," said CLA regional director Rupert Ashby.

"But this proposal will not make much difference. Even if a redundant farm building is capable of being converted into a dwelling, it is not always suitable for this purpose.

"Many of the buildings, particularly those on working farms, should not be made into homes because the potential occupiers would be exposed to livestock and dangerous machinery.

"The lack of roads, pipes and sewers to the property would make conversion prohibitively expensive."

Mr Ashby urged ministers to be more radical: "First, there needs to be a complete overhaul of the present planning system to encourage development of affordable housing rather than prevent it.

"Second, the person developing the housing needs to have a say in who occupies it. Too many local authorities insist that housing associations should manage affordable homes.

"Landowners will always be reluctant to provide land or buildings if they have no say in who will live there."

Fourayes stores up another award

WINNER: Ian Witherden (left) accepts the award from Michael Jack, president of the National Fruit Show, and Sarah Calcutt, of Marden Fruit Show Society

FOURAYES Farm in Bicknor scooped the Long-term Storage Award for Bramleys at this year's National Fruit Show at Detling, Maidstone, for the fifth time in 10 years.

The Kent farm is the sole remaining English-owned Bramley apple grower and processor. MD Phil Acock said: "It's important to us to maintain high standards across everything we do and we pride ourselves on the quality of our orchards and growing expertise.

"This award will give our customers continued confidence in the quality of Bramley apples they can expect from Fourayes."

Fourayes is a third generation family-owned business and has grown Bramleys in its orchards for more than 50 years. The apples are processed on site for use in desserts and baked goods sold by major retailers. It is the largest UK supplier of processed apple fillings.

The farm's orchards of 40,000 Bramley apple trees stretch across 31 hectares, and it processes 11,000 tonnes of Bramleys every year.

NEXT WEEK: Business Week Spotlight will focus on hospitality, travel and tourism

Timeline

KOS Media sport takes a look at the highlights of all the sporting action from the last 50 years

1960

50 YEARS AGO: DOVER asked the Football Association for compensation after a disappointingly low crowd of 5,025 watched their FA Cup tie against Peterborough.

The Whites were expecting a gate of 8,500, having sent 3,000 tickets to Peterborough. However, 2,623 of these were returned at the very last minute, by which time it was too late for Dover to sell them as fans in the town had assumed the game was a sell-out.

Dover ended up making only £100 from the tie.

Peterborough chairman Cyril Palmer blamed his club's fans. "It's incredible that our supporters cold-shouldered the Dover tie," he said. "We normally take thousands with us for a cup game, but I don't think we can be expected to make compensation."

Dover lost the first round tie, gallantly, 4-1.

1985

25 YEARS AGO: FLAMBOYANT Maidstone United manager Barry Fry offered fans their money back after his side crashed to a 2-1 defeat at home to Tonbridge Angels in the Kent Senior Cup.

Alan Shepherd ran Maidstone's defence ragged and was involved in both of Tonbridge's goals.

In the 18th-minute Tonbridge went ahead when Shepherd played in Neil Carolan, who was shoved off the ball by Duncan Horton. Nicky Sansom smashed the resulting penalty past Derek Richardson.

Shortly after the break it was 2-0 when Colin Blewden miscued in the Maidstone box, only for the ball to fall to Mark Gilham, who finished just inside the post.

Colin Barnes pulled one back for Maidstone, but Fry said he was "embarrassed and ashamed" by the performance.

2000

10 YEARS AGO: THERE was a major blow for Gillingham when it was announced that part of the multi-million pound new stadium at Priestfield would have to be pulled down.

A Government inspector ordered the partial demolition of the four-storey stand in Redfern Avenue after work began on the £3 million stand before full planning permission had been granted.

Medway Council twice warned the club to stop the work before the Government intervened.

Chairman Paul Scally was also fined for placing a bet on Gillingham to win their Wembley play-off final with Manchester City 2-1.

Scally, who said the bet was designed to cover the costs of bonus payments in the event of a Gillingham win, declared he would appeal.

Clark's happy with start he has made at Canterbury

By DAVID PRITCHARD

New coach a big hit with the ladies

Picture: ADY KERRY

PROGRESS: Nick Clark says Canterbury's win over Leicester could be a turning point

DESPITE a strong opening to the season which included toppling the defending champions last weekend, new Canterbury ladies coach Nick Clark is keeping his feet firmly on the ground.

The England under-21s coach took over at Polo Farm this summer and has enjoyed an excellent start. Heading into this weekend's game at home to Cannock, Clark's side had won five of their first seven games, one point off the lead in the Women's Premier Division.

The stand-out result came last weekend, when a solitary strike from Hayley Brown was enough to win at Leicester ladies. It was the first time the reigning champions had lost a regular league game since the 2008/09 season, indicating Canterbury may have a chance to launch a serious title challenge.

Pleased

Clark, who has coached the men's sides at Beeston and Bowdon, is happy so far, but is not getting carried away by the good start.

He said: "I think like everyone we have to aim for the play-offs and see how it goes. We're happy with what we've done so far, they finished fifth last year and I would be happy with anything above that.

"I think personally I'm pretty pleased, with a little bit of regret. We have lost two games where we haven't really turned up, but the result at Leicester was a big turning point, we hope. No one has beaten them for a long time and all our players came off really pleased. On the whole we're in the ball game."

Clark's role in the international set-up meant he arrived having already worked with several of the squad.

Susannah Townsend and Jenny Hall were in his line-up for the European Under-21 Championships this summer, while he had also seen younger prospects Grace Balsdon, Lucy Hyams and Rebecca Weston.

The latter two are pupils at Kent College, where Clark took over as director of sport in September, and he has been impressed with the talent in the squad.

He said: "It's a good group of girls. Obviously Mel Clewlow is the senior player, but there are a lot of younger players who are really keen to do as well as they can and have a lot of international ambitions."

Team dodge debris to clinch world record

A POWERBOAT team from Kent overcame a last-minute intervention from Mother Nature to set a new water speed world record for their class.

Team 26's effort at Coniston Water in the Lake District looked in doubt as high winds and torrential rain closed the course for much of last week. Debris washed into the lake made conditions treacherous and caused some damage to the P1 Donzi powerboat's propellers.

A brief window only appeared on the final day, allowing the Edenbridge-based team to stage an attempt on the record for their class, which stood at just under 90 miles per hour.

Their first run on the 1,000-metre course saw them break the record, but fall just short of their 100mph target. The second run was fractionally slower, but the third and final attempt brought success as they reached 101mph.

Picture: TEAM 26

STORMY WEATHER: Team 26 braved tough conditions to hit 101mph at Coniston Water

Driver Daniel Cramphorn, from Canterbury, was thrilled to reach three figures, particularly after overcoming so many problems.

He said: "The fact we didn't get it easily and really had to work for it made breaking the record all the more satisfying. Our first run was so close to that magical 100mph barrier that we just had to get out and try to go past it.

"We had a fair idea we had broken 100mph from our GPS readings, but had to wait until we got back to the dock. When they read it out there was a lot of excitement and I think it's fair to say it'll be a while before it's broken."

The achievement saw Cramphorn, along with co-driver Kim Collins, gain membership of the exclusive Bluebird K7 Club, reserved for those who exceed 100mph.

With the record in the bag, Team 26 will spend the winter looking for sponsorship ahead of next year's P1 World Championship.

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TYPICAL APR 16.9%

It was the first time that five Kent sides had made the first round of the FA Cup in 47 years and it lived up to expectations with goals, shock exits, giant-killings and replays. **TOM HOWARD** reports on an eventful day

A day to remember

THE FA Cup always seems to conjure some magic and the first round was no exception as Kent enjoyed one of its most impressive performances in the competition.

Gillingham, Dover Athletic, Dartford, Ebbsfleet United and Hythe Town all reached the lucrative FA Cup first round last weekend, which represented the county's best showing in the famous competition for almost 50 years.

The biggest story of the day came from Priestfield, where Conference South side Dover Athletic knocked League Two Gillingham out after a 2-0 victory. The tie was extra spicy as it pitched Gills boss Andy Hessenthaler against the club he spent three years as manager at before leaving in the summer.

Dover's reward is a home tie at Crabble with either League One Brentford or Aldershot Town of League Two.

Dartford came within minutes of causing another genuine cup shock as they led League Two high-fliers Port Vale until a late goal forced a replay.

Tony Burman's side, who were in the first round for the first time in 21 years, could host Accrington Stanley in the second round if they win next Tuesday's replay at Vale Park.

Kent League minnows Hythe Town enjoyed a fairytale story after picking up six wins to reach the first round for the first time in their history.

The lowest ranked side left in the competition faced a tough challenge by taking on League Two Hereford United, but they didn't disgrace themselves despite a 5-1 defeat at Edgar Street.

Ebbsfleet United are also in the hat for the second round after earning a replay against Conference Premier side AFC Wimbledon, after a 0-0 draw at Kingsmeadow.

The replay will be televised on Thursday and the Fleet will face Stevenage or MK Dons at home in the next round if they progress, which will also be live on television.

Pictures: ADY KERRY

DOVER ATHLETIC

Whites stun Gills

DOVER Athletic's victory at Gillingham was one of the shocks of the FA Cup first round and chairman Jim Parmenter believes the result has helped put the club back on the football map.

The Whites were a force in Conference National for nine seasons before slipping into the depths of non-league football over the last 17 years. But Saturday's win has confirmed the club are on the rise up the football pyramid again.

Parmenter said: "It's been a long haul back, but we are certainly well on the way. The coverage we received since the victory has been great. The day was my best in football, it's a great achievement and the first time in the club's history that we have got through the first round."

Last Saturday's tie at Priestfield was billed as a grudge match with Dover coming up against their old manager Andy Hessenthaler, who left in the summer to join Gillingham. The rivalry between the clubs was increased when Hessenthaler took Darren Hare (coach), Nicky Southall (player) and his replacement Ian Hendon from Dover to the Medway club.

Parmenter added: "We had 2,500 people there (at Priestfield) and as I said at the start of the year it was written in the stars that we would face Gillingham in the first round of the cup. We got our compensation and we will move on."

Despite their heroics, the club's second round tie at home to either Brentford or Aldershot Town won't be one of the televised games, although is likely to attract a sell-out crowd.

SHOCK OF THE DAY: Luke l'Anson celebrates his goal

EBBSFLEET UNITED

Fleet eye TV cash

EBBSFLEET United are set to scoop more than £120,000 if they dispose of AFC Wimbledon in their televised FA Cup replay next week.

The club have a huge financial incentive to win their replay with an opportunity to be live on television twice in nine days, picking up valuable broadcasting fees.

Liam Daish's side earned a replay against the Conference Premier high-fliers with a 0-0 draw at Kingsmeadow.

With the draw throwing up a chance for AFC Wimbledon to meet MK Dons, ESPN have decided to televise the replay on Thursday, netting the Fleet £33,750 whether they win or lose.

Victory against the Wombles would net a further £18,000 in prize money, but that would be dwarfed by figures for the second round.

The winners are due to host Football League opposition in the form of either Stevenage or MK Dons. ITV have selected the tie for their lunchtime kick-off on Saturday, November 27, which is worth £72,000 to each club.

Picture: DAVID PLUMB

Picture: CLIVE HOWARD

HYTHE TOWN

Town's braves

PLUCKY Hythe Town hope to capitalise on their FA Cup exploits by using the prize money gained to boost their Kent League promotion push.

The journey to the FA Cup first round started in August and the club has earned nearly £30,000 in prize money alone. Coupled with gate receipts from their seven ties in the competition, the financial pressure on the club has been significantly eased and plans are under way to invest the rewards at Reachfields.

Chairman Paul Markland says the run is an iconic moment in the club's history and the money received from the competition will be put to good use.

He said: "It's been a phenomenal round and everyone has thoroughly enjoyed it. When people think of Hythe Town now, they think of this side. We hope to invest some of the money in the club's infrastructure on things a club like ourselves wouldn't usually be able to afford. We really want to get promotion now so we will probably use the money to invest in players if Scott Porter [manager] needs them."

DARTFORD

Darts grab replay

AFTER coming so close to a genuine FA Cup upset, Dartford chairman Dave Skinner is confident his side can triumph in the replay against Port Vale.

The Conference South side were just minutes away from booking their place in the second round in front of a crowd of 3,679, only for Vale to snatch a replay with a late equaliser from John McCombe.

The goal may have broken Dartford's supporters' hearts, but the club have a second chance to finish the job in Tuesday's replay at Vale Park.

Skinner said: "We more than matched Port Vale in the first game so I see no reason why we cannot do it again at their place.

"It was a day to remember for the club last Saturday. We sold 2,000 tickets in one day for the game in the build up, and the place was buzzing.

"I spoke to a few of the die-hard supporters and they just couldn't believe how far the club has come in such a short space of time."

Picture: SPORTSHOTZ.CO.UK

Here's how we covered the day with our live updates of all four games:

3PM: All four ties kick off in front of expectant fans.
3 MINS: DARTS 0 VALE 0: Dartford go close to opening the scoring against Port Vale as Danny Harris beats the goalkeeper but the ball is cleared off the line. OMG.
7 MINS: GOAL! HER 1 HYTHE 0: Hereford's Michael Rose bursts into the box and fires a low drive past Hythe goalkeeper Kieron Mann. Good goal – the goalkeeper had no chance.
13 MINS: WIM 0 EBB 0: Christian Jolley heads narrowly over for AFC Wimbledon and Ebbsfleet United's Michael West forces a full-length save from Seb Brown.
15 MINS: GILLS 0 DOV 0: Gills on top, Dennis Oli blazes over for the home side.
18 MINS: GOAL! GILLS 0 DOV 1: Dover striker Adam Birchall fires a 25-yard screamer past Alan Julian. The 2,400 Dover fans are going BONKERS.
21 MINS: GOAL! HER 2 HYTHE 0: Rob Purdie places a delicate chip over Mann to extend Hereford's lead. Harsh on Hythe, but Hereford's finishing has been top draw.
25 MINS: GOAL! HER 2 HYTHE 1: Hythe pull a goal back through Gary Mickelborough, who calmly slots past Adam Bartlett. Town supporters go wild. Game on. Hythe are back in this big time.
27 MINS: GOAL! GILLS 0 DOV 2: Blimey. Luke l'Anson lashes a loose ball in the area into the net. Gills players complain about the goal.
38 MINS: GOAL! HER 3 HYTHE 1: Mathieu Manset pings an unbelievable overhead kick into the net from six yards.
39 MINS: WIM 0 EBB 0: RED CARD. Wimbledon down to 10 men. Christian Jolley shown a red card for a foul on Craig Stone.
39 MINS: GOAL! DARTS 1 VALE 0: It's mental at Princes Park. Elliot Bradbrook nets a Ryan Hayes free-kick to spark Darts fans into raptures.
41 MINS: GILLS 0 DOV 2: Ross Flitney saves a strike from Gills' Danny Spiller.
42 MINS: WIM 0 EBB 0: Red card for the Fleet, Ashley Carew sent off for a second bookable offence.
42 MINS: GOAL! HER 4 HYTHE 1: Manset bundles home a fourth goal for Hereford amid complaints for off-side. It's a mountain to climb for Hythe.
HALF-TIME: Gillingham 0 Dover 2, Dartford 1 Port Vale 0, Hereford United 4 Hythe Town 1, AFC Wimbledon 0 Ebbsfleet United 0
46 MINS: GILLS 0 DOV 2: Dover fans chant "you're getting sacked in the morning" at Gillingham boss Andy Hessenthaler.
55 MINS: GILLS 0 DOV 2: Flitney saves a volley from Nicky Southall.
58 MINS: WIM 0 EBB 0: Golden opportunity for Fleet. Callum Willock's flick finds Ricky Shakes but his soft shot was saved by Brown.
60 MINS: HER 4 HYTHE 1: Penalty shout for Hythe. Referee Andy D'Urso waves away appeals. Hythe fans are livid.
62 MINS: DAR 1 VALE 0: Louis Dodds fires Vale's first chance wide.
64 MINS: GILLS 0 DOV 2: Flitney saves from Jack Payne and Stefan Payne. He's fast becoming the hero here.
64 MINS: HER 4 HYTHE 1: Stuart Fleetwood almost makes it 5-1 as his shot crashes against the underside of the crossbar.
75 MINS: GILLS 0 DOV 2: RED CARD! Gillingham's John Nutter is sent off for a challenge on Dover's Harry Baker. That probably wraps it up.
86 MINS: GOAL! DAR 1 VALE 1: Vale back level. Shabby goal to concede. John McCombe heads an equaliser from a corner with the side's first real opportunity.
90+1 MINS: GOAL! HER 5 HYTHE 1: Fleetwood taps home from close range to wrap up the game. Hythe beaten but not disgraced.

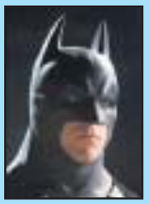
FINAL SCORE

Gillingham 0 Dover Athletic 2, Dartford 1 Port Vale 1, Hereford United 5 Hythe Town 1, AFC Wimbledon 0 Ebbsfleet United 0

Kent sport stars have their say on twitter

In the first of a brand new weekly series, we bring you the pick of the week's Tweets from the county's sports stars

THE WORLD Superbike season may be over, but just try separating Leon Camier from his machine.



The 24-year-old from Ashford has headed back to school in the United States to get some practice in for next season and tweeted on Monday to reveal he was joined by a Hollywood A-lister: @leoncamier "In states at min doing california superbike school today, and batman's turned up, christian bale (pictured) is out riding with us...", which was followed by the less charitable "Just thought, if he doesn't let me be robin, should I punt him off???"

GILLINGHAM'S media blackout may have prevented any official comment from the club this week, but it did not extend to the players' Twitter feeds.

Veteran defender Matt Lawrence pulled no punches in summing up the side's FA Cup defeat to Dover Athletic: @mattyjlawrence "Sometimes it's best just to dig a hole, jump in, and cover yourself over!!", before later adding: "We were awful. No excuses."

It was not all doom and gloom, with Dartford still revelling in their draw with Port Vale. Anyone in need of cheering up should listen to their link, tweeted on Tuesday @puredfc, which gives fans the chance to relive Elliot Bradbrook's goal, as commentated by Gary Clark and Paul Philpot on the club's radio feed.

KENT Cricket Club captain Robert Key dished out his latest thoughts on this year's X Factor: @robkey612 "Give Rebecca the title now. Different class yet again. Katie struggling"

TONBRIDGE race walker Tom Bosworth appears to have slipped effortlessly back into university life after competing at the Commonwealth Games last month: @TomBosworth "Meatfeast pizza! Perfect remedy after a wet and cold 10k!"

Follow us at www.twitter.com/kentsport for the latest sports news from around the county

Back in the black

Kent to record first profit for six years

By GLENN PEARSON

KENT look set to announce a profit for the first time in six years, although the club's operating level will still show a loss.

The sale of land for housing at St Lawrence, owned by Kent, has helped the club into the black and will be the first time since recording a profit of £5,548 in 2004.

The county club had recorded losses of £804,542 last year as a result of two hugely costly concerts and the delay of the redevelopment of their Canterbury ground, but after work finally got under way on the £8.2 million project in September, the releasing of funds means there is cause for optimism.

Encouraged

Kent chairman George Kennedy told this newspaper: "The general trading position continues to be tough, but of course by the time the results are published, which should be in January, we would have actually shown a profit on last year. But that's down mainly to the sale of the land of course, but it will be our first profit for some years and we are quite encouraged by that.

"The operating level will still be at a loss this year, but the bottom line, with the sale of the land and what we are doing with the redevelopment, it puts the club in a stable position financially. That's quite important as that's something we have been trying to do for the last couple of years, so I feel reasonably justified in all the things we have done so far."

Picture: ADY KERRY

ENCOURAGING SIGNS: George Kennedy (left) says profit made from land sale aligned with the redevelopment of St Lawrence (above), will put the club on a stable footing financially

Work on the ground continues apace and the floodlights, which will mean Kent can host Twenty20 games on a Friday night in future, have also been ordered and are expected to be in place for the start of the season.

On the playing front it's hoped a small budget will be available for an overseas bowler for next season, but Kennedy insists that it is not a formality as he doesn't anticipate money coming in from the redevelopment until the 2012 season.

"Now the finances are under control I want to keep them under control until we start getting money in from the development," he said. "But I will never say never to new players coming in, it will depend on the finances at the time and how the season pans out.

"We have always said that we will do our best if the right player becomes available. There are people like [Makhaya] Ntini who we will no doubt try and speak to and see if we can do something, but there is no guarantee that something like that will happen.

"This coming season will be tough, but after that let's hope we can take the foot off the brakes as far as expenditure is concerned."

The majority of work on the upgrade of facilities, the club say, should be finished by the start of the 2011 summer. However, there is a chance that some games will be staged elsewhere in the county, at Tunbridge Wells and Beckenham, while Kennedy also revealed that talks have begun with Folkestone about a return to Cheriton Road in the future.

He said: "This season with the disruption to the outfield part of the ground, it's a distinct possibility that we might play one or two matches away from Canterbury. We will have to look at that [Tunbridge Wells] and of course there is Beckenham as well.

"Not this season, but the following season, things in Folkestone are looking very encouraging. They have a massive development and ambitious plans. We have had talks with the people there and it's a distinct possibility that within a couple of years we could be playing cricket there again."

New logo just not cricket, say supporters

DISGRUNTLED Kent members are planning to reject the rebranding of the club's logo at the Annual General Meeting in March.

A redesigned badge features the return of the Invicta horse, but displays the new name 'Kent Cricket' as opposed to 'Kent County Cricket Club'.

The move has been met by a degree of opposition by some supporters, who are planning to have it overturned at next year's AGM.

Nigel Williamson, a Kent member who has submitted a motion against the rebranding, said: "While the restoration of the Invicta horse on the new logo is welcome, the name 'Kent Cricket' is banal and meaningless. There are lots of cricket clubs in Kent, but there is only one Kent County Cricket Club.

"We have been Kent CCC for 140 years and I'm confident that at the next AGM in March, a majority of club members will reject this crass and pointless attempt at a trendy rebranding."

The club took the decision after surveys of supporters revealed a perception it was a members only institution. With it becoming increasingly dependent on non-member income, the club hopes the new design will appeal to a wider community of supporters, conference users and commercial partners.

Jamie Clifford, Kent's chief executive, said: "The design of the new club logo coincides with the redevelopment of the St Lawrence Ground and heralds the start of a new era for the club.

"It rightly returns the Invicta horse to pride of place at the centre of a shield whilst providing a fresh new contemporary look.

"I hope that it will soon become widely recognised as standing for all that is good about Kent County Cricket Club – traditional, forward looking and welcoming."

NEW: Controversial design for Kent logo

OLD: Previous badge with full club name

Shakey looks set for British Superbike return

Picture: GSE RACING

SUCCESS: Shane Byrne won the British championship in 2003 and 2008

EXPERIENCED superbike rider Shane Byrne was expected to announce his plans for the 2011 season this weekend, with a move to the British Superbike Championship (BSB) his most likely destination.

The two-time British champion is a free agent after the Althea Racing World Superbike team decided to drop him from their plans for next season.

The Sheppey rider has been linked with several rides in different championships and was hoping to tie up a deal by the end of this week.

Byrne, who has been competing in the world series for the last two years, says he has received three offers from BSB teams and is planning to move back to England, which would suggest he is swaying towards a deal to return to the British championship. However, he has not completely ruled out a third season on the world stage.

Front-running BSB team HM Plant Honda could be one of the three offers as Josh Brookes has left the squad and the outfit have delayed announcing their 2011 line-up.

Byrne said: "Plans for next season are going well and I'm hoping for something to be confirmed by the end of the week. I've got three fantastic offers from BSB teams, but there are also options elsewhere in other championships.

"I'm not completely ruling out the world championship, but as I have said before I don't want to be riding around picking up ninth place finishes. I've got my fingers in several pies I just need to take one out and give it a lick."

If Byrne does decide to switch to the British series, he could be lining up alongside fellow Kent rider Tommy Hill.

The 25-year-old Beckenham-born racer has confirmed he will join the Swan Yamaha squad this week, after a season at Worx Crescent Suzuki which saw him finish third in the championship.

A wall of silence is no answer to Gills' plight

Results on the pitch may not be going to plan for Gillingham this season, but chief sports reporter **DAVID PRITCHARD** explains why suspending any contact with the media will only make things worse at Priestfield

DESPERATE times call for desperate measures, as the saying goes, but while Gillingham's season looks bleak no one expected the club to adopt a siege mentality this week.

The unusual decision to cease all communication with the media until after yesterday's game with Crewe Alexandra came in the wake of the club's worst one-off result for years.

A 2-0 defeat at home to non-league Dover Athletic in the FA Cup was the lowest point of a campaign which has stubbornly refused to catch light. The full-time whistle was met with boos from the home fans at Priestfield, as it had done with the defeat at home to Wycombe four days earlier.

Downbeat

As usual, Andy Hessenthaler spoke at the post-match press conference.

While understandably downbeat, the mood was not hostile and with typical candour the Gills boss dealt with questions about his future, which could hardly have been unexpected given the contrast between pre-season expectations and the reality.

NO COMMENT: Andy Hessenthaler's weekly Thursday press conference was cancelled Picture: ADY KERRY

"I'm right up for this challenge and there's no way I'll be walking away from this football club because I want to turn it around," he said, before heading back down to the changing room, where chairman Paul Scally was speaking to the players.

It was virtually the last official comment made by the club, who then hastily imposed a media blackout, supposedly to avoid the players getting distracted ahead of the Crewe game.

Clearly the move causes us and our colleagues in the press box a slight problem in previewing a game with no up-to-date information, but it is also counter-productive for the club itself.

Cancelling Thursday's press conference and any other interviews does two things. Firstly, it does not move the news agenda forward, which after the cup defeat might have been a good idea. Hessenthaler could have come out and dismissed all talk of the Dover game, concentrating on rebuilding supporter confidence ahead of Crewe. It might not have worked, but it was probably worth a try.

Secondly, it creates a vacuum which in an era of round-the-clock news can be a destructive thing. The last official action we saw was Hessenthaler being whisked away after the press conference to speak to the players and the chairman.

In the absence of any comment afterwards, it would be all too easy for an irresponsible rumour-monger to speculate what had taken place. There were maybe even a few supporters at Priestfield yesterday who were waiting to see whether Hessenthaler would still be in the manager's chair.

It also sets a dangerous precedent. Can we expect a blackout every time the side loses? For everyone's sake, let's hope not.

Wings flying in the face of adversity

OFF-FIELD problems have a habit of affecting performances on the pitch, but Jamie Day is full of praise for his Welling United side's attitude in the face of difficult circumstances.

The Wings' preparations for the new season were thrown into disarray when they were served with a winding-up petition in August for an estimated £90,000 debt owed to HM Revenue & Customs.

While the High Court gave the club 14 weeks to rectify the situation, the Football Conference imposed a five-point penalty and restricted the size of the first-team squad to 16 players.

Given the problems, Welling's results have been unexpectedly good. Although the Wings were beaten 4-0 at Ebbsfleet United on Tuesday, they went into the weekend third in the Conference South table – with only the lost five points separating them from sharing the lead.

Day, who has just celebrated his first anniversary in charge at Park View Road, is delighted with the way his squad have been able to focus purely on the games.

He said: "The boys have been first class, apart from Tuesday, they've just got on with it. We were disappointed to lose the points, but hopefully it won't make a difference at the end of the season.

"A lot of them are young, so they don't worry about what's going on, they just want to prove they are decent players. Something like this can go two ways – you either let it affect you, or stay together and use it as a motivation."

News is expected in the next few days about the club's long-awaited takeover. See www.kentsport.co.uk for details when it is confirmed.

Picture: DAVE PLUMB

BATTLING ON: Welling (in yellow) in action against Ebbsfleet on Tuesday night

Teen star storms to national title

Pictures: HELEN COOPER

MEDALS: (l-r) Coach Ovidiu Rugina, James Hall, Courtney Tulloch and head coach Ionut Trandaburu

RISING star Courtney Tulloch claimed his biggest gymnastics title to date by winning the under-16 all-round national championships last weekend.

The 15-year-old took the top scores in the floor, high bar and rings to finish more than two points ahead of his nearest rival in the overall contest, held in Leicester.

James Hall, also from Pegasus Gymnastics Club in Bearsted, performed well too, claiming bronze on the high bar and fifth in the all-round competition.

The achievement was made all the more impressive as both gymnasts only turned 15 last month, so had to make the substantial step up from the under-14 competition.

Fef Griffin, Pegasus director, was delighted with the way the pair made the transition.

She said: "It was a fantastic competition for both of them because it's a tall order to go from under-14 to under-16. One of the big changes at under-16 is they compete on the international code, so the routines have to be longer, which makes things more difficult. They both did extremely well."

Tulloch's score on the rings was good enough to qualify him for the Masters competition, which pitted him against the best under-18s and seniors.

The teenager, who won the UK Schools title earlier this year, was thrilled to win another big event.

He said: "I'm really pleased, last year I came second and to now become British champion is really amazing. I think I'm learning a lot and particularly how to perform under pressure, which is important.

"Looking ahead to next year, I want to keep progressing and hopefully make British teams for internationals."

Decision over new league next week

FOOTBALL: THE Football Association are expected to reveal next week the number of clubs to declare an interest in forming a new division for next season.

A competition at step six, between the top flights of the Kent League and Kent County League, has been mooted for several years. The prospect of it becoming a reality now rests on the number of clubs who registered an interest before Wednesday's deadline.

To be eligible for consideration, football grounds had to fulfil a minimum entry requirement and be able to make improvements during the next four years.

An announcement is due within the next few days and if enough suitable clubs are interested a plan would be presented to the FA's Leagues Committee next month.

World Championship silver for county duo

ROWING: DAN Ritchie (pictured) and Tom Ransley were part of the Great Britain squad that won silver at the World Rowing Championships last weekend.

Herne Bay Rowing Club's Ritchie and Ashford-born Ransley featured in the men's eight crew, who finished second behind Germany in the final

There was also success for Maidstone adaptive rower Kelsie Gibson, who won silver in the coxed fours, finishing behind Canada and in front of Germany.

Club runners bag clutch of medals

ATHLETICS: THE county's top runners returned from the English Cross Country Relays with a decent medals haul last weekend.

For the second successive year, Blackheath & Bromley finished second in the senior men's race.

Alex Littlewood, Mike Skinner, Andy Rayner and Scott Overall combined to finish four laps of the 5km course in just over an hour, taking silver.

Tonbridge cemented their reputation as one of the strongest junior cross-country outfits, bringing home three medals.

Henry Pearce, Luca Russo and Robbie Farnham-Rose (pictured) took the under-17 title, a feat which was matched by the under-15 team of Sean Molloy, Max Nicholls and George Duggan.

Kent trio picked for tour to Sri Lanka

CRICKET: THREE Kent players are included in the England women's squad to take on Sri Lanka this weekend.

Captain Charlotte Edwards, Lydia Greenway and Susie Rowe (pictured) are all expected to feature in the first One-Day International against the hosts on Sunday.

The England team play two ODIs against Sri Lanka, followed by three Twenty20 matches, which they will use to prepare for the winter tour to Australia at the beginning of January.

ZULQ LIFELINE

Kent exhibition club Lashings in bid to offer Pakistan cricketer a safe haven in United Kingdom

By **DAVID PRITCHARD** and **FRED ATKINS**

LASHINGS World XI cricket team are using their international contacts in an attempt to offer Zulqarnain Haider a safe haven in the United Kingdom.

The Pakistan wicketkeeper has been at the centre of a media storm this week after fleeing from Dubai on Monday, announcing he was seeking asylum.

It came after the 24-year-old's heroic display in Pakistan's one-wicket win over South Africa in the fourth One-Day International on Sunday allegedly incurred the wrath of a match-fixing ring. He subsequently flew to London, without telling his team management, claiming he has received death threats.

On Wednesday his contract was suspended by the Pakistan Cricket Board, who said Zulqarnain had made no attempt to contact them and that it had been unable to locate him – though he is believed to be staying at a hotel near Heathrow.

Intervened

David Folb, chairman of Maidstone-based Lashings, offered Zulqarnain a place with his team as soon as he heard of his predicament – as exclusively revealed on our website, www.kentsport.co.uk.

"We'd love to have him in the team," he said. "We've been trying to contact him, via text, phone and email and our door is always open to him."

The club have sheltered players in a similar situation in the past and have enlisted the help of Rashid Latif, who has been texting Zulqarnain to offer advice. The former Pakistan wicketkeeper has been a Lashings stalwart since he was shunned by the cricket establishment in his home country for blowing the whistle on match-fixing scandals over a decade ago.

Folb said: "We have tried to contact Zulqarnain through a couple of ex-international players. Rashid would be well-placed to understand both parties having been in that situation before."

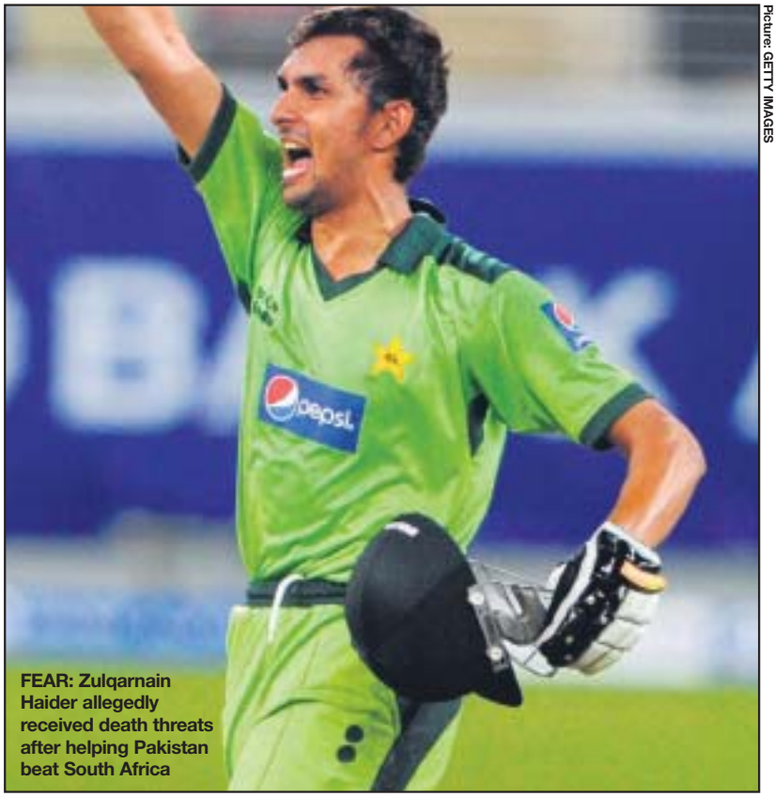
The businessman believes the club's track record should count in their favour. They also intervened to offer the Zimbabwean Henry Olonga a safe haven, following his black-armband protest against the Mugabe regime during the 2003 World Cup.

Folb said: "At Lashings we have a long and proud tradition of offering help to those in need.

"Henry faced the very serious threat of assassination if he'd stayed in Zimbabwe after the World Cup, while Rashid was also treated as a pariah because he stood up for what he believed was right. We believe Zulqarnain would feel at home with us."

However, Zulqarnain's decision attracted bitter criticism from a string of former Pakistan players, including the former Kent and Pakistan all-rounder Asif Iqbal.

"I don't think he did the right thing, he made a big mistake," Iqbal said. "I don't think he deserves the attention he is now getting in the media. What he has done is very wrong for Pakistan cricket."



Picture: GETTY IMAGES

FEAR: Zulqarnain Haider allegedly received death threats after helping Pakistan beat South Africa

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Benn thanks lucky stars for cancer support

EXCLUSIVE

By **TOM HOWARD**

GOLFER Benn Barham has received the all-clear after a cancer scare and says support from the likes of Tim Henman and Jamie Redknapp have helped him get through the "massive ordeal".

The European Tour player underwent an operation last month at Kent & Canterbury Hospital to remove a kidney, which was confirmed this week to have had a cancerous tumour.

The 34-year-old's recovery has been going well and he is now beginning to focus on playing golf again, after doctors told him on Wednesday he will not require cancer prevention treatment.

Barham, who lives in Tenterden, only discovered the tumour following an ultrasound scan for a stomach complaint earlier this year.

Since going under the knife the Chart Hills member has been flooded with good luck messages from fellow European Tour golfers, tennis star Tim Henman and former Liverpool and England midfielder Jamie Redknapp. Barham has been touched by the response and believes it has helped his recovery.

He told Kent on Sunday: "It's been a massive ordeal and the toughest thing I've had to go through in my life. I feel I've been extremely lucky and it's now a case of just looking after myself.

"I'm really pleased to have made the decision to go ahead with the operation. I was bracing myself for the next challenge, so it was great to hear that I will not need cancer prevention treatment.

"It's amazing really and I have to thank everybody who has supported me up until now. My friends and family have been amazing, but I have had lots of messages from all sorts of people wishing me well.

"Lots of guys from the European Tour and Challenge Tour have been in touch. Tim Henman has got in touch and wanted regular updates with how things have been going and so have lots of people from all walks of life – from the postman to the next door neighbour to Jamie Redknapp and players on the Tour.

"It makes you feel everyone is behind you and it's been extremely helpful."

Barham begins his fitness programme at Tenterden's London Beach Hotel in the next 10 days.

Picture: ADY KERRY

ENCOURAGEMENT: Tennis player Tim Henman was in constant contact with Benn Barham

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